

## Prodi Says Italy Faces Uphill Battle to Euro

### He Pledges an 'Extraordinary' Effort

By Alan Friedman  
International Herald Tribune

ROME — Italy's prime minister conceded for the first time Thursday that Rome would not be able to bring the national budget deficit down on time next year to the level required by the Maastricht treaty on European monetary union.

But the official, Romano Prodi, leader of the center-left governing coalition, predicted that "in all honesty we will get to 3.3 percent, rather than an exact 3 percent, meaning we will be in range."

"And then we will examine together with our European colleagues what we need to do."

In an interview Thursday at his office in Rome, the prime minister said he was prepared "to take extraordinary and supplementary steps if that is deemed necessary" to reach the Maastricht condition of 3 percent of gross domestic product.

Mr. Prodi also said that "in every country in Europe there was a dramatic difference of opinion between central banks and governments" on the issue of the single currency. He declined to go

into detail but said: "We need to resolve this."

European governments generally are pushing for monetary union for political reasons, as a means of binding Europe, especially Germany, into a more cohesive whole. At the same time, the Bundesbank and other European central banks have emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to economic and financial criteria for the single currency, regardless of political concerns.

Mr. Prodi reiterated his pledge to resign if Italy did not join the first ranks of single-currency members in 1999, saying, "When you put all your chips in one basket, there are consequences."

Although he did not say so explicitly, Mr. Prodi's remarks appear to confirm the widely held view that some European governments, while failing to achieve the 3 percent Maastricht ratio, hope to join the first wave of single-currency members by coming close to the target when the issue is discussed in early 1998. In 1996, he said, Italy will have a deficit of 6.6 percent of GDP.

Speaking separately Thursday in Florence, Hans Eitner, president of the Bundesbank, praised the Italian government for curbing its borrowing and laying the groundwork for a stable lira. "Italy is on the right track," he said. "Certainly Italy still has a lot to do, even though it has made substantial progress." (Page 15)

Looking ahead to the summit meeting of European Union leaders in Dublin next month, Mr. Prodi called for "more political progress that will make clear to public opinion that Europe is a plus for its citizens and not just a monetary issue."

He warned there was "a dangerous split, with public opinion feeling that Europe is now simply nothing more than an accounting machine, and that is why in Dublin we have to make a new push."

When asked how Germany and France saw Italy's drive to join the single currency in 1999, he said: "Both understand that Italy is important and probably essential for monetary union. But in Germany there is much public skepticism about the single currency, and the result is that Germany must take account of this public opinion, and so you get mixed behavior."

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## Cease-Fire At Last in GM's Duel With VW?

By John Schmid  
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — After more than three years of legal and public-relations clashes between two of the world's leading automakers, Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, the embattled production chief of Volkswagen AG, will resign Friday, company sources told German media Thursday.

Mr. Lopez will offer his resignation Friday to VW's supervisory board, the daily Handelsblatt reported, quoting unidentified company officials.

VW did not deny the newspaper's front-page article but merely issued a statement saying it would have no comment. "To spare you the frustrating telephone calls, the following advisory: no (repeat no) statement is to be expected from us today," it said.

In the course of the day, however, two German-based news agencies reported that their own VW sources had confirmed that Mr. Lopez would resign. VW has come under growing pressure in recent weeks to reach an out-of-court settlement with General Motors Corp., Mr. Lopez's former employer. On Tuesday, a U.S. judge in Detroit, GM's home town, ruled that GM could pursue racketeering charges against Mr. Lopez and other VW executives, including its board chairman, Ferdinand Piech.

Allowing the racketeering charges would significantly increase the damages that VW would have to pay if found guilty. Mr. Lopez's lawyers have said they expect German prosecutors to file criminal charges of industrial spying in a German court by the end of November.

The expected departure of Mr. Lopez, a former executive at GM who was being courted by VW with high-pressure tactics almost four years ago, could help blunt GM's increasingly strident public accusations against VW.

GM has demanded that VW fire Mr. Lopez as a precondition for any out-of-court settlement in GM's civil suit in Detroit alleging industrial spying by Mr. Lopez and other VW executives.

Once nicknamed "Lopez the Terrible" for his attacks on costs, Mr. Lopez joined VW in 1993 and helped the German carmaker claw its way out of staggering losses for that year.

VW has consistently denied the accusations against Mr. Lopez, 55, and given him unwavering support.

Although Mr. Lopez was a lightning rod for controversy almost from the day he began at VW, the conflict until recently consisted of a rhetorical volley of public declarations. But a new wave of pressure has been mounting on the German carmaker since a series of five court decisions ended in GM's favor.

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Newsstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon
Antilles	12.50 FF Morocco
Cameroon	1.600 CFA Qatar
Egypt	2.50 FF Reunion
France	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia
Gabon	1.100 CFA Senegal
Greece	350 Dr. Spain
Italy	2.800 Lire Tunisia
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA U.A.E.
Jordan	1.250 JD U.S. Mil. (Eur.)



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## Truckers Tighten Grip on France

### Effect on Europe Trade Widens; London Demands Compensation

By Anne Swardson  
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Striking truck drivers erected more highway barricades and increased their stranglehold on the French economy Thursday after talks mediated by the government made progress but did not meet key wage demands.

With snow falling in the northern half of France and up to 2,000 out of the country's 18,000 gasoline stations out of fuel or running short, the government warned that it might impose a settlement.

The 11-day strike showed the difficult position of the French government when faced with angry strikers, whom it was also not able to resist during a three-week rail-and-transit strike last year. Already, it has met all the demands of the truck unions that are under its purview, costing France hundreds of millions of dollars at a time when reducing government spending is paramount. The remaining sticking points, on wages and working hours, are up to the private sector.

Trucking employers said late Thursday that their pay offer, which the truckers had rejected as insufficient, was open to change, Reuters reported. Asked whether the employers were prepared to make a fresh offer to help end the blockade, Jean-Louis Amato, president of the Unotra haulers' association, said the offer was "flexible."

Effects of the strike rippled through the rest of Europe. As far north as Sweden, Volvo said it would have trouble continuing auto production if the strike went into next week, although the end of an unrelated Danish transport

strike eased pressure. (Page 10) In Portugal, a joint automaking venture between Ford and Volkswagen said it could halt production as early as Friday. Trucks were lined up for miles at Belgian ports to get on ferries to Britain.

In London, Prime Minister John Major said he had been "horrified by the consequences of the dispute for British drivers and companies" and repeated calls for France to compensate British drivers whose vehicles have been immobilized. Paris has ruled out blanket compensation but said complaints could be addressed to local prefectures.

More than 10,000 drivers from Britain, Germany and especially Spain, which has no other land bridge to the rest of Europe, were stranded in France.

[The strikers agreed to lift their blockade of the Channel port of Calais temporarily to let stranded truck drivers embark for Britain, Reuters reported. A spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce said 200 foreign trucks, mainly British, would be allowed to board ferries for Dover. But truckers stranded in Britain by the blockade would not be allowed to enter France.]

The strike showed few signs of spreading to other industry sectors, however, the way the rail and transit stoppage did a year ago. An effort by one of the major unions to get workers in other industries to walk out in support of the truckers Wednesday largely failed.

But the truckers alone were able to cause a fair amount of confusion. By late Thursday there were a total of 250 blockades along the roads and highways of France, French television showed

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Gerry Jones, an English truck driver, waiting out the strike in Calais.

## Turnout Is High as Algerians Brave Violence to Vote

By Roger Cohen  
New York Times Service

ALGIERS — Battered by five years of civil war, Algerians appeared ready Thursday to approve a new constitution banning Islamic political parties, enmeshing the Parliament and granting sweeping new powers to the president.

With army troops and paramilitary forces massively deployed in the streets of Algiers, the vote took place in an atmosphere at once tense and sullen. A wave of killings in recent weeks that has left 270 people dead has made a mock-

ery of official claims that no more than "residual terrorism" affects Algeria after the loss since 1992 of about 50,000 lives in fighting between the government and Islamic militants.

For the government of President Liamine Zeroul, a retired general, the passing of the constitution is supposed to mark the opening of a new phase leading to what the president has called an "authentic, pluralistic democracy."

[A high turnout — nearly 72 percent of voters two hours before polls closed, the government said — was already a sign of success for President Zeroul,

The Associated Press reported.]

But recent violence, a ban on television appearances by opposition parties in the run up to the vote, and the contents of the constitution itself suggest that the entrenchment of the military-backed authorities that have ruled Algeria since independence from France in 1962 is more likely than any real democratic reform.

It was Algeria's first attempt, beginning in 1989, at a democratic opening that led to the spiral of violence that has crippled the country.

The now outlawed Islamic Salvation

Front first swept to victory in local elections and then appeared poised to win parliamentary elections in 1992. Before the military stepped in, the second round of the vote was held in Islamic insurgents began a campaign of terror — met by progressively more savage reprisals — that has relentlessly eroded the political center.

"Democracy — what democracy?" Hiba Mazari, a social worker in a depressed eastern suburb of Bourouba, asked Thursday as she stood in a polling

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## AGENDA

### U.S. and Saudis Act on Threats

KUWAIT (Reuters) — American and Saudi intelligence efforts averted possible new terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. military remains on high alert there, Defense Secretary William Perry said Thursday.

Mr. Perry told reporters flying with him from Bosnia to Kuwait that there had been several arrests to prevent attacks. He declined to provide details.

The defense secretary is to travel to Saudi Arabia on Friday as part of a Gulf tour.

"These are cases where I cannot discuss details," Mr. Perry said.

"They were based on intelligence information we or the Saudis had."

"Based on that information, either they or we took action and it, in our judgment, averted what would have been some sort of a terrorist attempted action."

A total of 24 American soldiers were killed in two bomb attacks on military facilities in Saudi Arabia in November 1995 and in June of this year.

Investigations are continuing into those attacks.



FAR FROM HOME — Tibetan women joining in an anti-Chinese rally Thursday in New Delhi before Jiang Zemin's state visit. Page 4.

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## As Beijing Scores Points, Taipei Winces

By Keith Richburg  
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — In the game of bluster, intimidation and diplomacy being played between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, this has not been a particularly good week for Taipei.

The week started bad early, on Sunday in Manila, with President Bill Clinton and his Chinese counterpart, President Jiang Zemin, smiling broadly, shaking hands and promising a mutual exchange of visits to each other's capitals and an overall improvement in the recent rocky relations between their two countries.

Taipei gets jittery whenever Washington and Beijing move closer together, because the United States is seen as Taiwan's main protector and its prin-

cipal arms supplier. The fear on the island is that whenever a U.S. president wants to score points with the mainland, relations with Taiwan are cooled.

The bad week got worse late Wednesday, when President Nelson Man-

South Africa expects China trade boom. • Taiwan won't encourage investment in South Africa. Page 18.

dela announced at his home in Johannesburg that South Africa would break its diplomatic relations with Taiwan and recognize the mainland.

"We regret this very much," said Mr. Mandela, after earlier declaring it would be "immoral" for South Africa to abandon an old friend. He made it clear that the switch was being forced on

him, because Beijing refused to accept a policy of "dual recognition" of both China and Taiwan.

To not recognize China — the world's most populous country with a Security Council seat and a growing trade relationship with South Africa — would be "inconsistent with South Africa's role in international affairs," Mr. Mandela said.

South Africa's switch, while not unexpected, is a major blow to Taiwan. South Africa is the biggest and most important of the 30 countries with diplomatic relations with Taipei, and Taiwan officials and analysts say Mr. Mandela's announcement could start a ripple effect among smaller African countries that may not want to be caught

## First Crack In Japan's Glass Ceiling

By Mary Jordan  
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — In a landmark ruling in Japan, where women face discrimination in nearly every aspect of their lives, a Tokyo court has found a bank guilty of denying promotions to 12 female employees because of their sex.

The court ordered the bank on Wednesday to pay the women a total of almost \$900,000 and to promote immediately to management positions the 11 plaintiffs still with the bank.

It was the first time a Japanese court held an employer liable for denying promotions because of an employee's sex.

"More and more women are working, and there is a national awakening to their rights," said Fukuko Sakamoto, the attorney who represented the women. "This case will have a very big impact on the workplace."

The working conditions faced by the women at Shiba Shinyo credit union are similar to those faced by millions of women across Japan. More than 99 percent of the bank's managers were men; overall in Japan, only 4 percent of managers are women.

In their lawsuit, filed more than nine years ago, the women argued that most of the bank's 200 female employees were expected to serve tea to their male colleagues.

College-educated women with up to 40 years' seniority were stuck in jobs counting coins or answering phones, while men were routinely promoted to management within 15 years.

The "glass ceiling" for women in the workplace has long been decried in many countries, but that ceiling is set several stories lower in Japan. Almost uniformly in the Japanese workplace, men make decisions and women make photocopies.

Women are routinely encouraged to quit their careers when they have children. Those who choose to stay at work, or not to marry, are subjected to heavy

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## THE AMERICAS

# Many Children to Lose U.S. Disability Benefits

## New Welfare Law May Deprive 260,000

By Robert Pear  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has sent letters to the parents of 260,000 children notifying them that the children might lose disability benefits because of the new welfare law.

The cash benefits, averaging \$424 a month, are paid under the Supplemental Security Income program. The children, most of them from low-income families, were previously found to have a wide range of severe physical or mental disabilities like cerebral palsy, autism, tuberculosis, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, epilepsy and mental retardation. Some children, especially those with mental, emotional and behavioral problems, will lose the cash benefits they receive.

For years, critics of the fast-growing program have contended that it was too generous and that some children received benefits even though their medical problems were not very severe. The program was a prime target of Republicans who wrote the welfare bill, which President Bill Clinton signed Aug. 22. Philip Gambino, a spokesman for the Social Security Administration, said the letters were sent Wednesday to 260,000 of the one million children who receive disability benefits. The government will review the cases to see if the youngsters meet the definition of disability established by the new law and regulations.

Mr. Gambino estimated that 100,000 to 200,000 children — 10 percent to 20 percent of all children on the rolls — would eventually lose benefits.

The effort will be a test of resolve for those determined to prune the rolls and for others trying to minimize the impact of the new welfare law. Past attempts to reduce the number of children in the program encountered stiff opposition.

The new law tightens eligibility standards, but Congress gave the president great latitude to interpret the law. Administration officials are writing regulations that will, by redefining disability, determine the impact of the law. The new regulations are supposed to be issued in the next few weeks. Administration officials said Mr. Clinton would probably review the rules because the decision could set off a political furor.

In a sample letter to parents, Janice Warden, a deputy commissioner of Social Security, said, "We will review Jane Doe's case to see if she is disabled under the new definition of disability for children," adding, "If we find she is not

disabled because of the new law, we will stop her S.S.I. unless you appeal our decision." She was referring to the Supplemental Security Income.

The new law does not stop benefits immediately. Children on the rolls may receive benefits through June 1997, provided they continue to meet all the other eligibility criteria.

Parents of disabled children and their advocates urged Mr. Clinton to be compassionate as he applies the law.

"The power to hurt these children, or to assist them, is completely in President Clinton's hands," said Martha Ford, a lobbyist for the Arc, formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens.

Children qualify for disability benefits only if their parents' income and assets are less than certain levels set by law. Benefits decline as family income rises. Families generally become ineligible as incomes approach \$30,000 a year. Two-thirds of the disabled children receiving benefits are in families with low incomes — less than \$21,000 a year for a family of four in 1995.

Under the old law, children could qualify for disability benefits in two ways: if they met the medical criteria in a list of impairments or if they were unable to engage in activities appropriate for their ages. The new law eliminates the second alternative.



TIMBER! — Hillary Rodham Clinton leading a donated Christmas tree to its new home: the White House.

# Dramatic Rise in Opium Production Is Reported

By William Branigan  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Fueled by expanding drug trafficking rings and ineffectual or corrupt governments, the world's production of opium has risen dramatically in recent years and is pushing up addiction rates for heroin, according to the U.S. drug policy chief.

Barry R. McCaffrey, a retired general who heads the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, expressed alarm about the increases after returning from a trip to Southeast Asia that overlapped with President Bill Clinton's visit to Thailand. Mr. McCaffrey visited the "Golden Triangle," which spans the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos and produces most of the world's opium, the narcotic from which heroin is derived.

Global opium production has doubled since 1988 and is now about 4,000 metric tons a year, according to estimates compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency and cited by Mr. McCaffrey. It takes about 10 tons of opium to make one ton of heroin, experts say.

"This massive commodity production is looking for a marketplace," and its greatest impact is likely to be

in the regions where opium poppies are grown, Mr. McCaffrey said Wednesday. He said drug trafficking and addiction are up sharply in China, notably near the Golden Triangle, and in Pakistan, which borders the world's second-largest opium producer, Afghanistan.

At the same time, international drug trafficking organizations — including Nigerian, Chinese, Colombian and Mexican rings — are "aggressively" marketing

Global opium production has doubled since 1988 and is now about 4,000 metric tons a year.

heroin in the United States and Europe. As cocaine use has fallen in the United States in recent years, Colombian gangs in particular have sought to peddle heroin to try to keep their share of the U.S. narcotics market.

The United States has about 600,000 addicts, only 2 percent of the world's total, but "we're seeing some disturbing trends among young people," he said.

Opium production in Colombia has risen from virtually nothing a few years ago to 65 metric tons last year, surpassing Mexico, according to the CIA figures. Together, the two countries now produce more than enough heroin to meet current U.S. demand of about 10 metric tons a year, Mr. McCaffrey said.

Still, the output from Latin America is dwarfed by that from Southeast Asia, which produces 60 percent of the world's opium. Of that, the CIA figures show, 92 percent comes from Burma, the world's biggest producer. Based largely on satellite reconnaissance of areas under cultivation, agency estimates put Burma's 1996 opium production at 2,560 metric tons and rising.

The increase in Burmese opium production in recent years coincides with the takeover in Burma of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, a military junta known as SLORC.

"The jury is still out on how much SLORC is involved in drug production," Mr. McCaffrey said. "But we can say that the drug production is up, not down." He said the junta's "dismal" human rights record was an obstacle to U.S. cooperation in trying to reduce opium cultivation.

# U.S. and EU Link to Fight Resurgent Diseases

Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — Alarmed by evidence that diseases once thought virtually wiped out are staging a comeback, public health officials from the United States and Europe have agreed to establish a global early warning network to alert doctors and governments about budding epidemics.

The network — established by a U.S.-European Union task force on communicable diseases — will start by registering outbreaks of "food-borne" diseases like hepatitis and the E-coli bacterium. If the plan works, it will be extended to all communicable diseases.

Relatively small outbreaks of disease often grow into global epidemics because local governments try to cover them up, and doctors in the rest of the world fail to recognize the microbes as they are spread by jetliners and other transportation, said Nancy Carter-Foster, director of the State Department's emerging infectious diseases program, and Georgios Gouvaras, head of the EU's public health policy unit.

Under current procedures, the World Health Organization requires governments to report outbreaks of just three diseases — cholera, plague and yellow fever. A deadly disease like Ebola is not covered.

"I'm not sure that the WHO or any other organization has the resources to do the job," Mr. Gouvaras said.

Under the new plan, U.S. and European governments would report outbreaks on their territory, as well as anywhere else that come to their attention. Other governments would be encouraged to participate, in part by promises of aid to battle epidemics.

As a first step, the network will establish a list of diseases not by name but by clinical symptoms. The object, officials said, is to make sure that nothing is overlooked because physicians do not recognize it as a serious disease.

According to a Clinton administration report presented to the panel, world health officials virtually wrote off communicable diseases in the 1960s because antibiotic drugs, vaccines against childhood diseases and improved sanitation seemed about to make them extinct.

"As it turned out, our understandable euphoria was premature," the report said. "New microbial threats are appearing in significant numbers, while well-known illnesses thought to be under control are re-emerging."

## POLITICAL NOTES

## Democrats Gain From Latino Backlash

LOS ANGELES — Judging from the unprecedented surge in Democratic support from Latino voters in California and other states, it would be easy to assume that they have found their ideological home.

A little-known Hispanic woman, Loretta Sanchez, scored a major upset in defeating Representative Robert K. Dornan, an Orange County Republican, according to a tally Friday that gave her an insurmountable lead. Cruz Bustamante became the first Latino to be named speaker of the state Assembly, where nearly a third of the Democratic members are Hispanic. Nearly 1.4 million Latino voters, 13 percent of California's electorate, according to one survey, went to the polls and gave President Bill Clinton more than three-quarters of their votes.

"We feel very good about it," exulted Bob Mulholland, a top Democratic strategist here.

But Hispanic leaders caution that the Democrats hardly have a lock on their community. Even though Latinos voted more heavily Democratic and in larger numbers than ever before, that surge signifies less an overwhelming affection for the Democratic Party than a strong backlash against Republicans, analysts say.

The election, they note, turned in part on such issues as the cutoff of social services to immigrants and efforts to dismantle affirmative action programs.

"The Republican Party has done a very effective job of alienating what could be a natural constituency," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund. "The question is, is the party going to mend its ways?" (WP)

## Women-for-Clinton Now Line Up for Jobs

WASHINGTON — Women in the Democratic Party say it's payback time and they're looking for signs from the administration, preferably in the form of jobs for women, as a sign of gratitude.

About 100 women from inside and outside the administration, including the women's movement founding mother, Betty Friedan; the activist Eleanor Smeal; the undersecretary of agriculture, Jill Long Thompson, and a former Democratic National Committee member, Lynn Cutler, pressed their cause with Vice President Al Gore in a meeting this week at the New Executive Office Building.

Mr. Gore reportedly told them that he and President Bill Clinton "get it," that the 17-percentage-point gender gap would not be taken for granted and that the administration would stay in close touch with the women's groups. (WP)

## Quote/Unquote

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, Republican of Texas, on the first lady's professed interest in taking on a role in the administration's welfare-reform policy: "If Hillary Clinton does as well with welfare reform as she did with health care reform, we have no problem." (LAT)

## Away From Politics

• Fishing boats dragging for the last fragments of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 have had their contracts renewed for 75 days to ensure that no potential clue to the perplexing crash off Long Island is left behind. A spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board said, "If they keep bringing stuff up, they'll continue to dredge." (NYT)

• Dalmatian-suited dancers shivered in subfreezing weather, and Bullwinkle soared over Broadway for the first time in years at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade celebrated its 70th anniversary in New York. (AP)

• Tobacco companies were ordered to turn over their secret cigarette formulas by the Minnesota Supreme

Court as part of the state's lawsuit against the industry. The state and insurers are seeking evidence that tobacco companies manipulated nicotine levels to keep smokers addicted. (AP)

• The U.S. Postal Service, citing its improved delivery performance and near-record profits, announced that about 63,000 postal executives, postmasters, supervisors and administrative employees would share \$169 million of year-end bonuses on Dec. 20. The payment is the largest in the three years of Postmaster General Marvin Runyon's "pay for performance" incentive program. (WP)

• An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the open-ended Richter Scale, followed by 33 significant aftershocks measuring up to 3.8 in just the first three hours, rattled the geothermal area of the Coso volcanic range in Inyo County, about 130 miles north of Los Angeles. No injuries or damage were reported. (LAT)

## Judge's Ruling On Bias Law Causes Sparks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO — Civil rights groups cheered the blocking of the newly passed California ballot initiative that would dismantle affirmative action, while Republican lawmakers attacked the federal judge who issued the restraining order.

"The absurd consequences of this ruling is that California can constitutionally only prohibit discrimination against some races but cannot constitutionally prohibit discrimination against all races," said Governor Pete Wilson, a Republican.

U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson said Wednesday that the initiative, which passed with 54 percent of the vote on Nov. 5, stood a good chance of being found unconstitutional. His temporary restraining order was issued following a lawsuit filed by civil rights groups challenging Proposition 209.

Mark Rosenbaum, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, hailed the ruling as a "tremendous victory that stops Proposition 209 in its tracks."

"Thanksgiving came a day early in California," he said. "The governor has had his race card removed."

Legal experts said court challenges to the measure could take years before reaching the U.S. Supreme Court.

Proposition 209 states simply: "The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting."

Despite its seemingly neutral language, the measure would effectively eliminate scores of affirmative action programs in state agencies and educational institutions.

Judge Henderson's ruling left little doubt that he was inclined, at this point, to accept the argument advanced by civil rights groups that the measure selectively bars women and racial minorities from seeking redress through affirmative action, while those seeking preferences on such grounds as age, disability or veteran status face no such barriers.

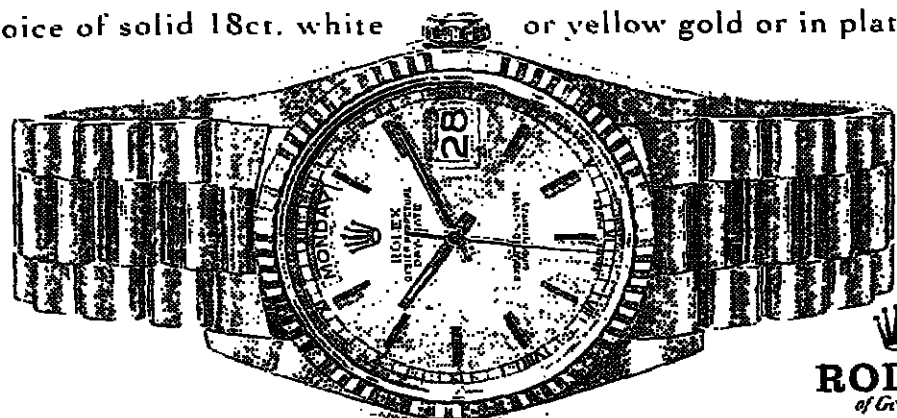
"In a case of this nature, the issue is not whether this court should reject or respect the 'will of the people,'" Judge Henderson wrote. "Rather, the issue is whether the challenged enactment complies with the laws of our Constitution and Bill of Rights."

His ruling drew angry denunciations from Assemblyman Bernie Richter. "It is well known that this guy is probably the most leftist, whacko, liberal judge sitting on the bench in the United States," the Republican lawmaker said. (LAT, WP, NYT)



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## EUROPE

## Dutch Drug Tolerance Is Under EU Pressure

By Tom Buerkle  
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The Netherlands is facing mounting pressure to abandon its liberal drug laws, as most of its European Union partners have lined up behind a French-led plan to wage a Europe-wide war against drugs.

The country's isolation, which was evident at a meeting of EU ministers of justice and interior affairs that opened here on Thursday, comes as a deep embarrassment to the government of Prime Minister Wim Kok and threatens to be a disruptive theme of the Dutch presidency of the Union that begins in January.

The Netherlands regards its distinctly tolerant attitude toward the sale and use of soft drugs as a source of national pride, believing it is responsible for one of Europe's lowest addiction rates. But the fight against drugs is one of the few issues that unites governments across Europe, and Dutch diplomats acknowledge that their government is likely to face intense pressure to close down, or severely restrict, the coffee shops that have made the country a mecca for Europe's marijuana users.

The immediate issue involves a proposed joint action calling on the 15 EU countries to harmonize their anti-drug legislation, toughen sentences for drug traffickers and increase cooperation between national police forces and justice authorities in combating drugs.

The proposal, which ministers were to debate Friday, was launched by France in September and quickly won the support of at least 13 EU countries.

Dutch officials initially sent positive signals on the action, but the government has mounted a last-ditch attempt to block or amend the plan in the past week following protests in Parliament in The Hague. Dutch legislators fear that the action plan's references to making laws "mutually compatible to the extent necessary to fight drug addiction," and to combating drug tourism, will lay the groundwork for a frontal assault on the country's entire drug regime.

"We are quite willing to cooperate with our partners to combat drug trafficking," one Dutch official said. "But we are not willing to close our coffee shops because of French pressure." Dutch diplomats have suggested striking out references to drug addiction and focusing the joint action strictly on trafficking, but have received little support.

President Jacques Chirac of France has made Dutch drug laws a prime target since he came to office in May 1995, claiming they have turned the Netherlands into a distribution center for the trafficking of soft and hard drugs into France. He personally upbraided Mr. Kok at an EU summit meeting in Cannes in June 1995, suspended plans to lift French border controls with six other EU countries in the so-called Schengen group and pulled out of a planned drugs summit meeting in Amsterdam earlier this year.

The Kok government responded to the pressures earlier this year by slashing the limit on sales of marijuana and hashish to five grams a customer from 30, and limiting the number of coffee shops licensed to sell. But it defended the principle of allowing controlled sales of soft drugs, introduced in the 1970s, saying it discouraged use of heroin and other hard drugs. Indeed, the country has 1.7 addicts for every 1,000 people, below France's rate of around 2.5.

To Dutch dismay, Mr. Chirac has persevered and gained numerous allies, including the current EU president, Ireland. Prime Minister John Bruton, under attack over drug crime since last summer's killing of the investigative reporter Veronica Guerin outside Dublin, wants to win approval of a raft of anti-drug measures — including the action plan — as a centerpiece of the EU summit meeting in Dublin on Dec. 13 and 14.



NO TRAINS TODAY — A Croatian railroad worker crossing the tracks at an empty station in Zagreb on Thursday as the country's rail unions began a general strike over wage levels and overtime payments.

## BRIEFLY EUROPE

## Major Won't Bargain With IRA

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major said Thursday that he was not prepared to change British government policy and bargain with the Irish Republican Army or its political arm, Sinn Féin, over a new cease-fire in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Major told Parliament the government was not trying to erect new hurdles in the path of the peace process. But he said there was no chance of Sinn Féin's joining multiparty peace talks until IRA guerrillas fighting to unite Ireland "unequivocally restored" the cease-fire that was broken in February. (Reuters)

## Sweden to Search for Jewish Gold

STOCKHOLM — The World Jewish Congress said Thursday that the Swedish government would help it look for evidence of unclaimed Jewish assets dating from World War II, possibly including looted gold.

Israel Singer, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, said he had received assurances of this in Stockholm from Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen.

The president of the congress, Edgar Bronfman, said in Oslo this week that "a lot of money" had been deposited in banks in Sweden by victims of the Holocaust.

"If I didn't think there was something left here, I would not have come," Mr. Singer said Thursday. "Yes, we do believe there is money, even gold here." (Reuters)

## Spanish Public Sector to Strike

MADRID — Civil servants in Spain have called a strike for Dec. 11 to protest against the government's planned pay freeze in the public sector, a union spokesman said Thursday.

The unions said they had rejected a last-ditch offer to avert the strike by the conservative government, which promised to raise salaries in 1998 and 1999 to compensate for a pay freeze in 1997 it said was necessary to help Spain prepare for European monetary union. (Reuters)

## Lobby Decries North Sea Fishing

LONDON — Politicians, lobbyists and scientists joined forces in Britain on Thursday to demand curbs on industrial fishing in the North Sea, warning that food stocks as well as wildlife were being seriously hit by excessive fishing.

Their call came with the publication of a report, funded by the British-Dutch consumer-products conglomerate Unilever Group, that showed industrial fishing — which turns fish into oil and feed — was eliminating much of the main food source for fish. It was backed by Scottish members of Parliament, Greenpeace and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. (Reuters)

## Serbian Marchers Seek Change — Any Change

By John Pomfret  
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — Wearing an oversized green felt hat and wrapped in a cozy overcoat, cheeks pink and eyes bright, Dusica Zivanovic is everybody's grandma. But she's a grandmother with a mission — to bring down the government of the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

"Red bandits!" the 55-year-old instructor of electrical circuit theory howled somewhat incongruously as she and thousands of other marchers passed the Ministry of Education building Thursday on the 11th straight day of protests against Mr. Milosevic's government.

"This government has destroyed our reputation around the world," Miss Zivanovic said as she marched side by side with students half her age. "Yugoslavia, the Serbian people used to be respected. Now we are a pariah. We are poor. We have nothing left."

Poverty, hopelessness and a fatally wounded sense of pride have propelled tens of thousands of people onto the streets of Yugoslavia's capital and in several cities across this country over the last week. The largely peaceful protests mark the biggest and most sustained challenge to Mr. Milosevic since he seized power in Serbia in 1987 and set this region on a course to war.

The protests were sparked by Mr. Milosevic's move to overturn the victory in elections on Nov. 17 of opposition political parties in Belgrade and 14 other major cities throughout Yugoslavia. Courts loyal to Mr. Milosevic tossed out results in some cities and local election commissions, also controlled by the Serbian president, refused to announce results in others.

The government held new elections on Wednesday in Belgrade and other cities where the opposition appeared to have been victorious. An opposition coalition, Together, called on its supporters to boycott the vote. On Thursday, not surprisingly, the government announced that the ruling Socialists had won those polls.

But the marches symbolize much more than discontent with democracy Serbian style. A deep sense of dissatisfaction is felt by many Serbs with the corrupt and inept system that has ruled their lives for the last nine years. Many protesters expressed the belief that their country is unfixable as long as Mr. Milosevic and the coterie of smugglers and Communist apparatchiks that surrounds him maintain control of Yugoslavia.

"I am tired of living in a post-Communist society," said Milan, a 19-year-old freshman in the electrical engineering department of Belgrade University. "I just want to live in a normal country. Is that so hard?"

Significantly, however, the protesters in Belgrade, mostly students and white-collar workers, teachers, doctors, engineers and lawyers, do not appear to be marching in support of anything specific, just against the Milosevic government.

This cloudy focus has complicated the task of opposition leaders who are trying to coordinate the protest. They said they were reticent about calling on workers to strike, for example, because they do not want to inconvenience the marchers with transportation stoppages or closed stores. They also fear that the workers will not heed such calls.

The opposition is further hampered by its own internal splits, between Serb nationalists, Western-leaning liberals and those who are nostalgic for Communist Yugoslavia.

"People just want something positive to happen," said Zoran Djindjic, the head of the opposition Democratic Party and the man who would have been mayor of Belgrade if Mr. Milosevic had let the results stand.

## Mladic Gives Up Serb Command

Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — General Ratko Mladic formally gave up leadership of the Bosnian Serb army on Thursday in Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold.

General Mladic, who is wanted by international war crimes prosecutors on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, buckled to pressure from Bosnian Serb political leaders and Western powers.

His decision, however, did not necessarily end a 19-day stand-off between the military and the political leadership over the future of the general and the leadership of the military.

The former Yugoslav People's Army colonel, promoted to general during the fighting in Bosnia, said he was replaced by General Manojlo Milovanovic, his former chief of staff. But a Nov. 9 order by the Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, named Pero Colic, a little known retired colonel, as commander.

It is unclear whether General Mladic is any closer to facing war crimes charges in The Hague.

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## INTERNATIONAL

# Officer Charged as Spy Is Treated Soviet-Style

## Case Tests Russian Political Freedom

By Michael R. Gordon  
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — It began with an early-morning knock at the door.

Alexander Nikitin, a researcher for a Norwegian environmental organization and a former Russian naval officer, was still asleep. But the security police insisted that he quickly dress and come along.

Mr. Nikitin had no opportunity to alert friends or colleagues. The telephone line at his St. Petersburg apartment had been turned off.

"It was in the best tradition of the KGB," Mr. Nikitin's wife, Tatiana, recalled recently. "They said that it was just an interrogation and my husband would be back soon."

Instead, Mr. Nikitin was charged with treason for helping to publicize radioactive contamination caused by the Russian Northern Fleet. Denied bail, he has been in a former KGB prison for nine months.

His case has emerged as a test of the limits of political freedom in the new Russia. It also raises serious questions about Russia's ability to overcome its long history of masking mistakes behind a veil of official secrecy and to deal openly with decades of environmental abuse and neglect.

Amnesty International, the human rights group, has listed Mr. Nikitin as a "prisoner of conscience." It is the first time the organization has charged Moscow with holding a political prisoner since Andrei Sakharov, the late nuclear physicist, was sentenced to internal exile during Soviet times.

Russian human rights advocates worry that the case has sent a disquieting signal that Russian citizens who work closely with Western human rights or environmental groups may be at risk.

"If that is the lesson that is learned, that may not be all bad," said Colonel Sergei Vasilev, a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, an heir to the old Soviet KGB, that is spearheading the case against Mr. Nikitin.

The man at the heart of the political and legal struggle is a gaunt, 44-year-old retired navy captain who worked for

11 years as an engineer on Soviet nuclear submarines and later served as a nuclear inspector for the Defense Ministry.

After leaving his Defense Ministry post in 1992, Mr. Nikitin tried his hand at various jobs and applied to emigrate to Canada before becoming a consultant to the Bellona Foundation, a Norwegian environmental group.

Established after the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine in 1986, Bellona has concentrated on northwestern Russia, where submarine accidents, overburdened radioactive storage sites, submarines taken out of active service and the ocean dumping of nuclear waste have spurred fears of nuclear pollution.

According to Bellona, the Northern Fleet operates 67 nuclear submarines and 2 nuclear-powered battle cruisers. An additional 52 nuclear submarines have been retired, but are in storage in the area, still equipped with their nuclear fuel. In all, 18 percent of the nuclear reactors in the world are in that area.

Frederic Hauge, the managing director of Bellona, said in a telephone interview from Oslo that Bellona had developed a good working relationship with the Russian authorities in Murmansk.

But not everyone in Russia was happy with the collaboration, or with Bellona's plan to document the navy's role in contaminating the seas.

In October 1995, police officers from the Federal Security Service raided the Bellona office in Murmansk and confiscated "everything there," Mr. Hauge said. Undaunted, Bellona sought to reconstruct its research, which it has published this year in a report on "The Russian Northern Fleet."

Mr. Nikitin helped prepare a chapter on Soviet nuclear submarine accidents, drawing on articles published in the Russian press, according to Bellona.

But on Feb. 6, Mr. Nikitin was arrested and charged with treason for revealing state secrets — a crime punishable by 10 to 15 years in prison, or even death. The arrest came a day after Canada approved Mr. Nikitin's request to emigrate there.



**A FRAGILE CALM** — A woman crossing a street barricaded by troops and armored personnel carriers, which were deployed around the government palace in Beirut on Thursday after opposition groups called a general strike to defend freedom of expression and to protest the government's social policy.

Bellona's activities in Russia have been restricted. The Russian government recently refused to give Bellona representatives permission to travel to St. Petersburg, where they could help Mr. Nikitin's lawyer work on his case, or to Murmansk.

The Russian Customs Service also seized 1,500 copies of Bellona's report, describing it as "forbidden literature."

Colonel Vasilev, the spokesman for the security police, said that the charges against Mr. Nikitin were "purely criminal" and that his defense was trying to give the case a "political coloration."

The nuclear pollution near Russian shores may have been caused by U.S. submarines, Colonel Vasilev said without further explanation.

But a senior Western official said that there appeared to be a "retributive" motivation beyond the charge on the part of the Russian security apparatus, which was embarrassed by growing concern over environmental contamination by the once-proud Russian fleet.

Boris Pustintsev of Citizens' Watch, a Russian public interest group that argues for tighter controls on the security

police, said, "It is an effort of certain xenophobic forces to isolate Russians from the West."

Some aspects of the case seem Kafkaesque.

For six weeks, Mr. Nikitin resisted the authorities' demand that he use a lawyer chosen by the security police. After an appeal to the Constitutional Court, he won the right to choose his own lawyer. But he has repeatedly been denied bail.

Mr. Nikitin's lawyer, Yuri Schmidt, said the information in the Bellona report was available in published sources and was important to the debate over environmental issues. As a result, he said, the information could not be considered secret under the Russian Constitution and state secrets law.

But the prosecution has argued that these laws were superseded by two secret decrees on classified information, which the government has refused to make public or provide to the defense.

Colonel Vasilev also said that the security police could not state precisely which portions of Bellona's report contained secret information. That, he said,

would also be a violation of security procedures.

Mr. Nikitin's wife is even more worried that the security police are trying to build a case that Mr. Nikitin is mentally unsound. "Specialists have been invited to investigate him from the psychiatric point of view," she said.

A trial date has yet to be set. Delaying the trial to next year could help the defense because a new legal code will come into effect then, with a less vague formulation of what is to be considered espionage.

Mr. Schmidt said West European groups had been more vocal than the air if opposition from aid groups, which prefer truck convoys, and Zaire proved insurmountable.

But Mr. Axworthy made two points in response to the declaration by Zaire's information minister, Boguo Makeli, that the government was categorically opposed to food drops and that it would not authorize flights intended for such purposes.

"I'm not sure he speaks for the government — as you know, things in the country are very confused, and who speaks for what are a question mark," Mr. Axworthy said.

He added that, in any case, the UN Security Council's authorization of an international force to assist in the return of refugees and in the delivery of aid was called for under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

That article allows member countries to proceed with air, sea or land operations to maintain or restore international peace and security in carrying out Security Council tasks.

Canada has voiced the frustration of many with the delays in mounting aid to refugees. "There is still an ongoing tragedy," Mr. Axworthy said.

In Kinshasa, Mr. Boguo said that "the Zairian government is categorically opposed to the Canadian proposition to drop foodstuffs for refugees and displaced Zairians."

Mr. Boguo said Zaire was worried about the safety of aid drops and the fact that they would be staged from neighboring countries it accuses of aggression.

Aid workers, meanwhile, poured scorn on the plan, saying the proposal was expensive, dangerous and full of holes. Many said air drops would require good intelligence on the whereabouts of the refugees and some presence on the ground to ensure that supplies reached refugees in need instead of Hutu militiamen or Zairian troops.

The aid drop plan "is a demonstration of the impotence and desperation of the international community," a Nairobi-based aid worker said. "How do you drop supplies when you have no clue as to the whereabouts of the people you are supposed to be helping?"

# Canada Set To Move on Aid to Zaire

## Wide Support Claimed Despite Local Outcry

Reuters

OTTAWA — Canada said Thursday that it had enough support to push ahead with the initial steps of an international aid mission for eastern Zaire, despite opposition from Zaire's government to a key part of it.

External Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy of Canada said at least 15 countries including the United States had agreed to participate in the first stage, and that a "steering board" would be convened Friday to give confirmation.

"At that time, we are quite confident that the proposal that we made to move forward, to give us a more active presence of the international force, will be launched," he said.

Canada is leading an international effort to get aid to what Western officials say is at least 200,000 refugees and perhaps hundreds of thousands more in strife-torn eastern Zaire, in addition to Zairians displaced in their country.

Two parts of the latest Canadian proposal are to set up a military headquarters at Entebbe, Uganda, and to pursue organized reconnaissance to determine how many people need what.

The third is "to develop the capacity for air delivery of supplies so that where the humanitarian organizations felt there was a need and couldn't reach large numbers of people, there would be that air capacity," Mr. Axworthy said.

It was a carefully chosen set of words that appeared to leave open the possibility of not actually dropping food by air if opposition from aid groups, which prefer truck convoys, and Zaire proved insurmountable.

But Mr. Axworthy made two points in response to the declaration by Zaire's information minister, Boguo Makeli, that the government was categorically opposed to food drops and that it would not authorize flights intended for such purposes.

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## Paul Rand, a Leading Designer Of Corporate Logos, Dies at 82

By Steven Heller  
New York Times Service

Paul Rand, a seminal figure in graphic design who created innovative visual identities for some of the major corporations and book and magazine publishers in the United States, died Tuesday in Norwalk, Connecticut. He was 82.

The cause was cancer, said his wife, Marion Swann Rand.

Mr. Rand is perhaps best known for the corporate logos he designed for IBM, Westinghouse, American Broadcasting Co. and United Parcel Service. He also created posters, packages and textiles and illustrated children's books.

Mr. Rand advanced the cause of modernism in graphics as a professor at Yale University and as an author.

In the 1930s, when American commercial art and advertising were dominated by hard-sell copy and realistic illustration, Mr. Rand introduced the formal vocabulary of European avant-garde art movements of the 1920s to business communications and publishing.

He was one of only a few U.S. designers to lay claim to the modernist traditions of Cubism, de Stijl, Constructivism and the Bauhaus, and was

influential in bringing what was called the New Typography — the rejection of archaic and sentimental type and layout treatments — to the United States.

**Elrey Jeppesen, 89, Pilot  
Who Pioneered in Navigation**

NEW YORK (NYT) — Elrey Jeppesen, 89, an aviation pioneer, died Tuesday at his home in Denver. He made his first solo flight in 1923 at the age of 16. When the U.S. government began registering pilots in 1928, it was Orville Wright who signed Mr. Jeppesen's first license. He later became a pilot for United Airlines.

Navigation was so problematic when he started flying that he bought a 10-cent, loose-leaf notebook to keep detailed records of the locations of water towers, smokestacks and other landmarks and for sketches showing the approaches to the airports he visited and the location of pastures that could be used for emergency landings.

That notebook became the foundation document for the Jeppesen Airway Manual, used by every commercial pilot in the United States and 90 percent of pilots around the world. The main terminal at Denver International Airport is named after Mr. Jeppesen.

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## Countries at Odds In Salinas Inquiry

### Swiss Ask Return of Bank Records

By Julia Preston  
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — Swiss and Mexican prosecutors investigating the finances of Raul Salinas de Gortari, the scandal-embroiled brother of the former Mexican president, have fallen out as a top Swiss official accused Mexico of insisting on confidential Swiss banking information.

In an Oct. 11 letter to Attorney General Antonio Lozano Gracia of Mexico, Switzerland's highest federal prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, protested Mexico's use of secret information about bank accounts belonging to Mr. Salinas to prosecute him and others for tax fraud.

Switzerland had provided the information to the Mexican authorities. But Mrs. del Ponte said Swiss law stipulates that Swiss banking information should not be used to punish financial or tax violations. The information, she said, was to be used only to determine whether Mr. Salinas's Swiss funds came from the laundering of narcotics money.

In the letter, a copy of which came to light this week, she asked Mr. Lozano to send all the Swiss-banking records back to her.

The stakes are high for both Mrs. del Ponte and Mr. Lozano.

Mrs. del Ponte has undertaken a campaign to crack down on international drug traffickers, tax cheats and corrupt politicians who use Switzerland's bank secrecy to hide illicit gains. But she has been criticized by Swiss bankers, who assert that she opened splashy cases but failed to come through with convictions.

Mr. Lozano is under fire in Mexico for failing to achieve results in several major cases, including the Salinas case. Mr. Salinas is in a Mexican jail on charges of graft and tax fraud and has also been accused of masterminding the 1994 slaying of a prominent politician.

On Nov. 15, 1995, Swiss authorities froze accounts belonging to Mr. Salinas that contained at least \$110 million, and arrested his wife, Paulina Castanon, and her brother Antonio as they opened a safe-deposit box

containing false documents that Mr. Salinas used to open the accounts. Mrs. Castanon and her brother were released a month later without charges.

The Swiss acted after U.S. and Mexican narcotics officials asked them to monitor several bank accounts suspected of being used for drug money laundering.

One day after Mrs. Castanon's arrest, Mexico asked Mrs. del Ponte for information about the accounts based on a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration document describing a "suspicious" 1991 transaction for \$6 million. The Swiss gave Mexico a wealth of information.

More than a year later, Mexico has brought no narcotics charges against Mr. Salinas. But the Swiss bank information leaked to the Mexican press and forced several prominent Mexican executives to admit they had done hidden business with Mr. Salinas. Last week Mexico opened a nondrug-related international money-laundering investigation against Mr. Salinas.

Mr. Salinas's brother, former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, gave testimony Wednesday to the special prosecutor in the 1994 assassination of a Mexican presidential candidate.

#### ■ Ex-President Quizzed

The questioning of former President Salinas in Dublin was his first by Mexican federal investigators since he left Mexico in disgrace 20 months ago, the Los Angeles Times reported from Mexico City.

The former president was questioned, in connection with the 1994 assassination of his handpicked successor, Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Mr. Lozano, the Mexican attorney general, and the Mexican foreign secretary confirmed that prosecutors had questioned Mr. Salinas for 12 hours at the Mexican Embassy in Dublin, where the former president has been living in self-exile for several months.

Mr. Salinas "answered an extensive interrogation and delivered a document that will be added to the investigation" into the March 1994 slaying, a joint government communiqué stated.

## Burma Faces Delay In ASEAN Entry

By Michael Richardson  
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Following a political crackdown in Burma and strong criticism of the military regime by the United Nations, leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations are expected to delay Burma's entry into the group when they meet Saturday.

While the delay will be justified on economic grounds, diplomats said Thursday that ASEAN also had to take account of the damage Burma's entry could do to the group's international reputation, especially its relations with the United States and Europe.

"ASEAN wants to achieve a united Southeast Asia and knows that it can never do so if its members interfere in each other's internal affairs," an Asian diplomat said. "But admitting Burma too hastily, when repression has recently been increasing, not decreasing, would inevitably tarnish ASEAN's standing."

Burma's military government was rebuffed Thursday by a United Nations General Assembly panel, which accused it of suppressing opposition, using forced labor to build the economy, torturing prisoners, abusing women and conducting summary executions. Earlier this week, President Bill Clinton sharply criticized the Burmese regime's refusal to move toward democracy.

The seven members of ASEAN — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — have agreed in principle that Burma should join the group. It was expected that Burma would be admitted in 1997.

The other two countries in Southeast Asia, Laos and Cambodia, are set to join ASEAN next year, and Burma has indicated that it would like to do so at the same time.

General Than Shwe, the head of Burma's military gov-

ernment, arrived in Jakarta on Thursday accompanied by the military intelligence chief, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, and six members of the cabinet, to attend the meeting as observers.

The timing of Burma's entry will be one of the main issues discussed by ASEAN heads of government when they hold their informal summit meeting Saturday in Jakarta.

The Philippines, Thailand and Singapore have indicated recently that they have reservations about Burma's joining ASEAN in 1997.

Thailand's incoming prime minister, Chuan Leekpai, said Tuesday that he wanted to tell the Burmese military that the world had changed and that it was time to change with it.

Singapore's prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, whose country has made heavy investments in Burma, said this month that he did not think that Rangoon was ready for full membership of ASEAN on economic grounds.

The Philippines' position, expressed Wednesday by President Fidel Ramos, is that Laos, Cambodia and Burma must go through a "step-by-step" process of membership.

Mr. Ramos suggested that each prospective member could take the basic steps of seeing if it could conform to ASEAN's goal of lowering tariffs and other trade barriers "so that a really free and open" market in the enlarged group would result.

ASEAN is committed to form a free-trade area in which tariffs on most products would be cut to between zero and 5 percent by 2003.

Burma, which has a highly protected economy, has become a major issue for ASEAN since the military government in Rangoon began a new crackdown in April on the Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy opposition group.

# Millions of people today know how to read because of L. Ron Hubbard's breakthroughs in education

The founder of the Scientology religion, L. Ron Hubbard, observed that if one truly understood what he read and heard and could make himself understood by others, all of life would be open to him. In the 1960s and 1970s, he researched why some people are unable to learn and comprehend. By isolating the causes, he solved the problem of illiteracy.

Today, Mr. Hubbard's educational methods are successfully used in Church-sponsored literacy projects around the world. To date, more than 3 million people have participated in 215 such literacy projects.

Some examples:

■ In Brixton, England, 8 to 13-year-old students gained an average of 1.3 years in reading age after only 10 days.

■ In a project in Los Angeles, high school students tested after a forty-hour period of classroom instruction

in Mr. Hubbard's educational methods revealed an average gain of more than two years.

■ Since the inception of Church-sponsored programs in South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1975, more than 3,700 teachers and 29,000 students have been trained in the application of Mr. Hubbard's study methods.

■ A further 1.5 million individuals in Southern Africa have attended seminars providing an introduction to these learning skills.

Mr. Hubbard's contributions in the field of education have brought literacy and the ability to succeed in life to children and adults across the globe.

David Rodier, Professor of Philosophy of Language in Washington, D.C., described one of Mr. Hubbard's principal texts in this field by saying, "In a time of widespread illiteracy ... this is a brilliant book by a brilliant mind. In fact, it is a revolution in thought."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Check the following Internet sites for information about Scientology. Each is available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish:

<http://www.scientology.org>  
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**VISIT OUR CHURCHES:** Pay a visit to your nearest Church of Scientology. Addresses for our principal European Churches are given here.

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61 Rue du Prince Royal  
1050, Brussels, Belgium

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**France**  
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20157 Milano, Italy

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1012 RL Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Norway**  
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0150 Oslo, Norway

**Portugal**  
Rua Actor Tabora 98 5  
1000 Lisboa, Portugal

**Spain**  
C. Montero 20 10 dcha.  
28013 Madrid, Spain

**Sweden**  
Gästgöten 105  
11662 Stockholm, Sweden

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# Herald Tribune

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## Costs of Communism

For years the West knew that the Communist world was lagging, but not until the Iron Curtain shredded did it become clear just how poorly the Communist economies had performed: how hollow were their armies, how tiny their automobiles, how dismal their standards of living. Now, half a decade into these countries' struggle to catch up, several economists have quantified how much time the socialist experiment cost them — and how many years they will need to recover.

In 1937, Czechoslovakia was more prosperous than Spain or Greece and nearly on a level with Austria, Italy and Ireland. After two generations under communism, Czechoslovakia remained the most prosperous of the East bloc nations, but it was now poorer than the poorest of Western Europe, its standard of living barely a third of neighboring Austria's.

Every other Communist nation similarly lost ground.

According to three economists at the International Monetary Fund (Stanley Fischer, Ratna Sabay and Carlos A. Vegh), Czechoslovakia's average per capita income, if it had followed normal West European growth patterns, would have approached \$16,000 by 1992. In fact, it fell short of \$7,000. Although the other East bloc countries started and ended the socialist era at

different levels from the Czechs, they all "lost" at least \$9,000 in annual income per person, the study found.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many East bloc nations — including now separated Slovakia and the Czech Republic — have embraced economic reform and begun to grow faster than the economies of Western Europe. Yet the IMF study and a similar analysis by Jeffrey Sachs and Andrew Warner at Harvard suggest that it will take these nations more than two decades to even approach Western standards of living, and that is assuming that they do everything right in terms of economic policy, a very large assumption. Two generations of failed economics, in other words, cost them at least a generation of lost income.

These are speculative numbers, of course; economists cannot say for sure what would have been any more than they can predict what will be. But the numbers do make you wonder — about Russia, for example, which started further behind and spent three generations under communism, not two. And about those most responsible for these economic travesties — the Communist apparatchiks and high-level central planners who seem to be thriving in the transition, while ordinary people go on paying for their mistakes.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

## The Same Milosevic

Western efforts to rehabilitate the image of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian dictator who bears prime responsibility for unleashing four years of bloody war in the Balkans, were badly damaged by Mr. Milosevic himself this week. By brazenly voiding municipal elections in which his Socialist Party was soundly defeated by an opposition coalition, this political survivor of the Communist era has made it difficult for any Western government to say he is a changed man.

Washington should continue to exclude the Milosevic regime from European and international institutions until there is real evidence that it has reformed its ways.

Mr. Milosevic has pursued a more moderate line on Bosnia since shortly before the Dayton accords, earning him Western gratitude and relief from most wartime economic sanctions. Limited diplomatic cooperation with him remains a necessity so long as Western troops remain in Bosnia.

But he is an opportunist, not a peacemaker. He has been conspicuously uncooperative in achieving nonmilitary aspects of the peace agreement, like the arrest of war criminals or guarantees of electoral fairness.

Moreover, as he made plain this week, he has no use for democracy in

his own country. Serbia, like the Yugoslav Federation it belongs to, holds regular elections, but the rules that assure free and fair choices elsewhere in Europe are trampled by the Milosevic regime.

Despite these obstacles, an opposition coalition managed to triumph in runoff elections earlier this month in 15 of Serbia's 18 largest cities, including Belgrade.

Besides revealing Mr. Milosevic's growing unpopularity, the victories raised hopes of breaking his stranglehold on information, since Serbia's municipal governments own television and radio stations, magazines and newspapers. Instead, courts controlled by the regime annulled the vote, sending tens of thousands of Serbs into the streets in angry protests.

Some demonstrations turned violent on Wednesday, as the elections were rerun, this time without opposition parties taking part.

Mr. Milosevic's rule does not appear immediately threatened, although similar protests signaled the end of nearby Central European Communist regimes in 1989. The Serbian leader continues to be a necessary diplomatic partner. But Western countries should not embrace him too closely.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Mischief on the Net

To the lengthening list of ways in which people in cyberspace behave pretty much as they would elsewhere, you can add the peculiar and legally unresolved issue of trademarking your Internet address.

Trademarking your address? Off the Net, you wouldn't think it a burning priority. But, like actual business logos or products, Internet domain names — the strings of letters that follow the symbol in e-mail or the "www" portion of Web addresses, such as "washingtonpost.com" — are the visible flag of an organization's presence in cyberspace, the first thing an outsider or browser sees. As such, they can be trademarked.

But it's more complicated than that, first because the single group handling the trademarking is small and new at it, and second because, while an organization can trademark a chosen variation of its name (a much argued example, mcdonalds.com), nothing formally can prevent an unrelated individual or potential troublemaker from registering something similar (say, mcdonalds.org or bigmac.com) and luring people to sites that may be, at the least, uncomplimentary. Such cases can be taken to court, but the results so far are foggy.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy ran a funny story canvassing the reactions of various nonprofit organizations that have run afoul of this problem. The American Civil Liberties Union, at <http://www.aclu.org>, has not figured out what to do about a group that has reserved the site <http://www.aclu.com> for a parody web site that describes

itself as belonging to the "Association of Crying Liberal Underachievers."

Then there's People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, whose trademarked web address includes its acronym, PETA, but is being plagued by someone who reserved the domain name "peta.org" for an organization he calls "People Eating Tasty Animals." A spokesman for the ACLU told Washington Post reporter Paul Demko that the group was uncertain whether to move against the rogue addressers, because it might appear hypocritical for an organization dedicated to free speech rights.

PETA general counsel Jeffrey Kerr was a lot more emphatic, telling Mr. Demko, "We don't think making fun of cruelty to animals is an appropriate use of the Internet, and certainly not of these domain names."

Even those who want these uses stomped out admit that they are a hybrid-headed menace, with new variations turning up as quickly as the old ones can be protected by law.

Some observers see a more serious problem. They charge that a few troublemakers are registering addresses similar to large companies' brand names, with the intention of wringing large sums out of those companies to release them.

Network Solutions Inc., the private trademarking company to which the National Science Foundation handed the responsibility last year, is too small to be dealing with such vast problems. Some actual court cases may, improbably, prove welcome.

— THE WASHINGTON POST

## Some Journalists Risk Their Lives to Do the Job

By Jim Hoagland

NEW YORK — Not even his highly developed sense of the absurd could have prepared Mohammed Amin for the strange death he met last Saturday. The photojournalist was among at least 127 people killed when an airplane ran out of fuel over the Comoros and crashed after three incoherent hijackers ordered the pilot to fly to Australia.

It was the kind of story Mr. Amin should have been covering, not getting involved in. But then, rules never did mean much to the man known as Mo throughout East Africa.

You probably did not know his name. But you knew his images. A familiar figure on Third World battlefields where he worked as a television cameraman and photographer, he played an essential role in drawing global attention to famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s.

The footage that changed history almost did not make it on the air. Producers in New York did not want to tie up expensive satellite time with a story on starvation in Africa. But a producer in London, overwhelmed by the horror that Mr. Amin had captured, fed it onto the satellite anyway, and the

images changed the network's mind.

A crisis in the Horn of Africa was not complete without his filmed record. He was almost killed in covering the overthrow of Ethiopia's Marxist regime in 1991 when an ammunition dump blew up near him and tore off an arm.

I lived in Nairobi in the early 1970s and came to know Mr. Amin then. In many respects, he was representative of the engaging, enterprising East African Asian minority that vigorously but uncomfortably occupied the middle ground between the African majority and the British settlers in the colonial era.

The "Asians" were the shopkeepers, small restaurant owners, clerks, plumbers and skilled artisans of colonial East Africa. Most were squeezed out of their businesses after independence.

But a business career did not interest Mr. Amin. Taking pictures in dangerous circumstances and places did.

Africa became a big, dangerous story. Like much of the Third World, it also became inhospitable territory for

Western-style investigative reporting.

The dedication of journalists like Mr. Amin, or Zambia's Lucy Sichone, or Turkey's Ayse Onal, can simultaneously inspire admiration and shame in American journalists, who risk little more than loss of access to insiders for criticizing their government.

Lucy Sichone, a columnist with The Post, a Lusaka daily, had to go into hiding with her 3-month-old daughter this year to avoid arrest and a jail sentence that would have destroyed her family. A widow with four children, she continued to write while in hiding. Eventually, international support for her led the Zambian government to drop its trumped-up charges.

Her story caused normally hard-bitten U.S. media types to go misty-eyed last week when she was honored in New York by the International Women's Media Foundation.

Mr. Onal, who was shot and wounded for exposing corruption in Turkey, and Saida Ramadan of Sudan, who has faced harassment, assaults and threats for criticizing the Islamic fundamentalist government in Khartoum,

were also given Courage in Journalism awards at that ceremony.

This week four other awards for similar courage and commitment were given to Third World newsmen by the Committee to Protect Journalists. One recipient, Ocaik Isik Yurtcu of Turkey, had the perfect excuse for not attending the ceremony: He is in prison for his coverage of human rights abuses.

What connects these cases? A consistent mix of bravery, stubbornness and an awareness by these journalists that what they do makes an enormous difference in their societies, where power relationships between rulers and ruled are still in flux and the nature of politics is still being defined.

Journalism as practiced in America, for all its flaws, has long been the global ideal. But the media in America are increasingly dominated by commercial and entertainment values focused on conquering or seducing markets. Today it is the work of Mohammed Amin, Lucy Sichone and many others abroad that serves as inspiration and challenge to their American colleagues.

The Washington Post

## 'Global Economy' Looks Like an Old Story With Bad Endings

By Richard Reeves

BRIDGEHAMPTON, New York — This is a great time to buy wooden furniture. At a big discount store here you can get good-looking heavy wood kitchen or dining room chairs for \$39 and \$49 dollars, and tables for \$99 to \$199.

The design is "Old American," in the manner of the rickety but beautiful hundred- and two-hundred-year-old Windsor chairs and farm tables. I just bought a bunch of the stuff, wondering exactly how they can sell it for these prices.

Well, actually, I do think I know. I think I saw my chairs when they were still logs on the docks of Jakarta. A little tag under the seat says "Made in Malaysia."

One way or another, the wood is from old forests being ravaged in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia has 13,000 islands, many uninhabited by anyone but the timber cutters. The rubber plantations of old Malaysia are being leveled. Vietnamese troops are taking out trees in their country and in Cambodia and Laos. It was exactly the same in white pine forests of Michigan in the mid-19th century.

A majestic order reigns above your head, a visitor to the Michigan pine forests wrote. "In a few years these impenetrable forests will have fallen, the noise of civilization and of industry will break the silence of the Saginaw."

From 1860 to 1890, 23 million board-feet of lumber were carted or floated out of the valley of the Saginaw. The take was \$4 billion, a billion more than all the gold dug out of California.

That done and forgotten, one now deplores the same impulses in Asia — ecology, child labor, unrenewable resources and all that. There will be a one-time harvest and then denuded, scrubby land for decades.

This is "the global economy." It was endorsed this week by the president of the United States in chats with Asian leaders, including the president of China. Behind the rhetoric of human rights and all that, Bill Clinton let the Chinese know that we Americans know all about one-time bonanzas.

China can do whatever it wants as long as Boeing and Disney and Rupert Murdoch get their piece of the action in the coming Chinese buying spree, another overtime thing, as the largest country attempts once more to make the great leap to modernity.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher came home a day before the president to go on television and patiently explain that while human rights and democracy are always paramount considerations, they are only part of the story. Business is the plot line.

He gushed over the new Shanghai, the towers and hotels rising behind the waterfront. For some reason, he did not mention that the population of central Shanghai was driven out to make room for the foreigners trying to make a buck before the country closes up again.

He also did not mention that tens of millions of Chinese roam the country, congregating around railroad stations in a bewildered chase after the action.

Having said that, the fact of the matter is that Americans cannot make China, or its leaders, do anything that they do not want to do.

We talk to ourselves too much. It is ludicrous to think that the folks in charge of the Middle Kingdom for this moment of history are going to allow freedom of assembly or freedom of the press because editors of The New York Times and syndicated columnists think that would be nice.

The Chinese are not nice, and

neither are we, even when we are doing our Bill of Rights numbers. Free markets, not free press, are what we want.

This new wave of global capitalism will roll on unless there is political revolt by the losers in the great game, losers who include downsized, benefitless, pensionless Americans or their mirror image, benefited but unemployed West Europeans.

This is the way it will be until there is trouble in the streets.

In America, at least, the winners have once again forgotten that "progressive" attitudes toward labor and the welfare state itself were not gifts to the masses but payoffs to keep them quiet and not come and kill us.

Writing in last summer's issue of Foreign Affairs, the director of studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Ethan Kapstein, pondered the impact

of new technologies and the global scramble for cheaper and cheaper labor, then warned that we might be repeating the mistakes that led from the Industrial Revolution to depression and two world wars.

"Workers became commodities like grain and coal, creating a world of urban poverty, causing a political cauldron."

Over time, "special interest groups have become entrenched around a particular set of policies — reduced deficits, reduced spending, reduced taxes, and that most exalted of deities, low inflation — [that favor] financial interests at the expense of workers."

The world may [again] be moving inexorably toward one of those tragic moments that will lead future historians to ask, why was nothing done in time?"

Universal Press Syndicate

## Tell Us About Nations Getting Ahead Together

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The United States, alone, opposes re-election of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, because he blocks America's will to make the United Nations America's tool for dominating the world, alone, writes Eric Rouleau, a former French ambassador, in Le Monde Diplomatique.

In his account of 14 years as presidential foreign affairs adviser, "The Worlds of François Mitterrand," Hubert Védrine repeatedly complains of U.S. determination to run the world.

It isn't only the French. In country after country, on every continent, more or less well-informed analysts sound the same theme. The United States is not only the sole remaining superpower, it allegedly insists on trying to run everybody and everything.

Americans don't hear that. They hear resentment that it took the United States so long to put troops into Bosnia; that it rammed through badly prepared elections so as not to have to leave too many there, for too long; and that then, reluctantly,

Americans felt relief that Canada agreed to take the lead when it seemed that only an important international force could save hundreds of thousands of lives in Zaire.

Americans argue over whether they have any serious national interest to justify being involved in these places and in other horrifying but distant and unfamiliar crisis spots. They ask why they should always be the ones whose response others await.

Some denounce the United Nations as an incipient world government that wants to run the United States. Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, writes in the super-serious and prestigious quarterly Foreign Affairs that America should pull out of the United Nations and go its own way.

Less powerful figures spread rumors about UN helicopters flying around America reconnoitering in preparation for an invasion and takeover. They warn adamantly against allow-

ing foreign generals to take command of American troops at any level. (They pay no attention to the fact that many Europeans are in the NATO chain of command above American units.)

Foreign and American perceptions are not just different, they are opposite. It is another unresolved legacy of the Cold War, when most Americans accepted a vital national interest in opposing the Communists everywhere, and when allies mostly accepted that U.S. leadership and support were vital to their interests.

Then President George Bush sought to define another era by calling for "a new world order." That was widely misunderstood outside America as a declaration of U.S. intent to impose its order on the world.

President Bill Clinton began his first term with a pledge to seek "multilateralism," which was taken in America as willingness to submit to foreign machinations, and outside as abdication of America's responsibilities.

Both presidents were talking about the same world. It is hard to imagine more contradictory ideas of how it actually works, or could be made to work.

"Globalization," welcomed or feared, is an economic and technological reality. But there has barely started to be a better sense of how national states, rubbing against each other, can fit into it to mutual benefit.

Henry Kissinger, writing eloquently as usual, persists in urging the 19th century concept of balance of power as the way to keep the world on a reasonably even keel, as though the terrible

20th century were not evidence enough of how such a balance is bound to break down. Now there are nuclear arsenals to make repeating the lesson apocalyptic.

The perceptions and the realities seem to be growing increasingly divergent.

It is not a matter of seeking a new vision. The outlines of what is possible and the needs are clear enough. Major problems are now too big and too complex for any country to solve by itself. No country can refuse to take others into account and expect to live with even minimum comfort on its own.

It is true, but true, to say that sovereign independence is a faded myth. "Domination," if that were still possible, is scarcely desirable, since the last half-century has shown that there are better, cheaper ways to achieve national well-being. In any case, national well-being can be sought now only by consent through the compensating advantages of trade, investment, mutual security.

But the old ways of thinking of the nation as having something to conquer or be conquered continue, even at levels capable and prideful of intellectual sophistication. The United States is by no means immune from the ailment.

People who don't spend their time focusing on international sustain the feeling, but so do many who do understand that this old approach is obsolete and counterproductive.

It would help if their leaders and opinion-makers would stop and reconsider — make the effort to explain clearly what they know in fact but find it inconvenient, supposedly unpopular, to admit.

© Flora Lewis

## Asian Connection, Continued

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — As postelection revelations come spilling out about more illegal fund-raising and many more unrecorded meetings of the Asian Connection in the Clinton White House, the need arises to connect the dots.

The accusation was first made in this space that an Indonesian banking family and its agent, working secretly with Clinton intimates Webster Hubbell and Bruce Lindsey, arranged for apparently unlawful contributions, through fronts and other subterfuges, to Clinton campaigns.

In return for these millions in donations and retainers, the foreign bankers (1) gained frequent access to Bill Clinton to argue for trade concessions; (2) achieved appointment of their agent to a top secret post inside the administration and received weekly phone calls from his Commerce Department office; (3) used the president's presence on his Asian trips to profit by impressing local politicians with their White House influence.

Thus was the making of American foreign policy corrupted at the core.

My charges were parried before the election, with a farago of lies from the White House. Bruce Lindsey was the source of disinformation that James Riady, scion of Indonesia's Lippo empire, had met with President Clinton only a few times on "social visits."

Not until after the election did we get the admission that Mr. Clinton had met Mr. Riady at least six times in the White House, plus an unknown number of times privately after fund-raisers outside, and at least once alone in the presidential limousine.

Social visits? After re-election, Mr. Clinton admitted discussing foreign trade issues with his Indonesian contributors in the Oval Office, and said he was aware that Mr. Riady would take his messages to Indonesia's President Suharto. Mr. Clinton's benefactor helped end U.S. trade pressure for human rights on Indonesia and China.

And now, postelection, we find that John Huang briefed his former Lippo Bank employers at least 70 times in 18 months from his Commerce Department office phone.

Most damning of all is the Sept. 13, 1995, late afternoon meeting in the Oval Office — federal property. We had Mr. Clinton's belated admission that his guests were Mr. Riady, Mr. Huang, Bruce Lindsey and Little Rock's wheeler-dealer in Asia, Joseph Giroir. Then and there, Mr. Clinton approved Mr. Huang's switch from Commerce to the Democratic Finance Committee, where he could best cash in on the favors done for contributors.

Who had guilty knowledge of this influence peddling, and when? The cover-up crew at the White House, working closely with Democratic counsel on the Senate White-water committee, knew that the Lippo Bank connection might be troublesome in June, fully four months before accusations began in October.

According to a then secret deposition of Bruce Lindsey taken on June 8, the Senate was trying to find out if the Lippo Bank's payments to Web Hubbell just before he pled guilty to fraud were "hush money."

Needed: Independent counsel (or deep breath) investigation of possible fund solicitation on federal property (Section 607a of the Criminal Code); soliciting funds from foreign nationals (441e); contributions given in the name of another (441f); falsely pretending to be a federal employee (912); representing a client in matters in which accused had substantial participation while in government (207); tampering with a witness (1512); obstruction of proceedings (1505); bribery of selected or former public official (201); failure to register as a foreign agent (22 U.S.C. 618).

And, if done by phone or mail, connect the dots with the infamous Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (18 U.S.C. 1961).

The New York Times

## IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

### 1896: In Madagascar

PARIS — The Figaro published a letter from its special correspondent in Madagascar describing the measures taken to restore order on that island. The letter states that the execution of Ratsimamanga, uncle of the Queen, and of Raniandrianampandry, the Minister of the Interior, who were convicted of secretly supporting the insurrection, produced a deep impression on the population and convinced them that the French intend to put down the rebellion and maintain order in the country.

sacre of Custer's men by the rebel Sioux. In token of this supreme respect, the Indian chief christened him with a name borne only by big chiefs of the tribe, "Watakech Wakya," which means Charging Bull.

### 1921: A Pipe of Peace

BISMARCK, North Dakota — Marshal Fock smoked the pipe of peace with Chief Red Tomahawk when he exchanged the white man's palace for the teepee of the red man. Red Tomahawk is the brave who killed Sitting Bull after the mas-

sacre of Custer's men by the rebel Sioux. In token of this supreme respect, the Indian chief christened him with a name borne only by big chiefs of the tribe, "Watakech Wakya," which means Charging Bull.

### 1946: Chiang Speech

NANKING — Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek told the Chinese National Assembly that he considers his political career is at an end. "I am sixty years old now," he declared emotionally as he presented China's new coalition draft constitution. "In the past twenty years since Sun Yat-sen's death I have been entrusted with the responsibilities of government. Now that the National Assembly has taken over I have no more political ambition." Chiang also said that the new constitution provided for a presidential system of government with extensive powers entrusted to the chief executive.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.  
Tel: (1) 41 43 92 10. Fax: (1) 41 43 92 11. E-Mail: [info@iht.com](mailto:info@iht.com)  
Editor for Asia: Michael Robinson, 50 Convent Road, Singapore 051. Tel: (65) 472-7788. Fax: (65) 274-2334  
Mgr. Dir. Asia: Roy D. Kozlowski, 50 Convent Road, Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 292-1188. Fax: (852) 292-1190  
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## OPINION/LETTERS

Proustian Flashes Leave  
A Bad Taste in Europe

By Daniel Tarschys

STRASBOURG — For years, he had not thought much about his childhood. But then it came back to him in a flash, sparked by the taste and smell of a particular cookie and a particular flavor of tea.

As Europe's presidents and prime ministers gather in Lisbon on Dec. 1 and 2 to discuss a security model for the 21st century, they have reason to reflect on this key event in Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past."

European history is full of horrors that we Europeans have consigned to collective oblivion. But how long will they stay buried? Nations forget, but nations also remember. Far back or not so far back, in our minds lurk recollections of trouble and trauma. It does not take much to revive them. A sudden event may unleash a stream of unpleasant memories.

Consider the war in Chechnya. Much has been written of the tragic consequences for the region itself and for Russian politics, of the killing and suffering. Less has been said of the war's impact on Central Europe.

That impact, I believe, has been profound. There are many reasons why the area's countries want to join NATO, but I suggest that nothing has acted as powerfully on Central European public opinion as the images from Chechnya.

To the credit of Russia's leaders between 1988 and late 1994, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the withdrawal from Eastern Europe and the early transformations of Russia itself were peaceful processes. Victims there were, but they were few given the historical scope and sweep of the transition.

The watershed was Chechnya. On the television screen in every living room, the Russian military was back in action, conjuring up nasty memories among Central and Eastern Europeans.

Other recent Proustian events have occurred between Greeks and Turks. At a distance, the display of force over a group of uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea and the killings along the green line in Cyprus may seem merely unfortunate incidents, but in the region they had a powerful impact because of the associations they evoked.

The Greeks and Turks are not alone. The atrocities Europeans

have committed against other Europeans are sufficient to fill libraries. In fact they do. If we were bent on settling scores, we could have another century of wars.

The alternative, practiced since 1945, is a policy of systematic reconciliation. This is not achieved by suppressing the past or just letting bygones be bygones. Nor is it achieved by citing mythologies about "the eternal friendship between the peoples."

What is needed is a much more ambitious enterprise: serious attempts to see things from the other's point of view, combined with a determination to face a common future. That is what European construction is all about.

What France and Germany have achieved is exemplary. With a firm resolve to end centuries of conflict, they have linked themselves through a network of human and economic contacts, through education and cultural exchanges.

Could this experience be repeated in other parts of the Continent? It could and it should. Nations that eye each other with age-old suspicion deserve particular attention.

European stability requires reasonably fireproof democracies. As long as attitudes toward minorities and neighboring countries remain highly inflammable, even small reminders of past injuries can spark dangerous reactions.

Efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights go a long way toward neutralizing such risks and are key priorities for the Council of Europe. But in conflict-ridden regions they need to be supplemented with targeted initiatives to build confidence and understanding. Joint projects in research, education and culture can be particularly effective.

Compared to wars and their aftermaths, such regional preventive measures cost peanuts. The Stability Pact, concluded in Paris in 1995, gave a promising impetus in this direction.

This push should be continued. The Lisbon summit meeting can recover time lost in the pursuit of European security.

The writer, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Hong Kong's Liberty

It would be morally bankrupt of Western businessmen to "sacrifice Hong Kong for the vast China market" ("Business Needs a Hong Kong With Free Speech Maintained," *Opinion*, Nov. 20, by George Hicks).

Mr. Hicks argues that even just for the sake of making money, Hong Kong's current ways should be defended. Without the high degree of liberty we now enjoy, Hong Kong will not continue to play its role as the business hub of the region. Western businessmen should state clearly to Beijing that Hong Kong should be left alone after the handover next year. Otherwise everyone will lose.

Unfortunately, businessmen, be they Western or Eastern, are shortsighted almost by nature. The editorial "Hong Kong Rights" (Nov. 22) had it just right when it said: "Few in Hong Kong's business elite have defended the territory's rights."

It is purely wishful thinking that politics and economics can be totally separated, especially in a totalitarian country. Businessmen are naive if they think they can prosper without political freedom. For one thing, the spread of corruption from mainland China is certain to be devastating to the business community.

But businessmen can afford to be optimistic. Unlike the vast ma-

jority of Hong Kong people, who have no choice but to stay here, many businessmen have an exit route — a foreign passport — and can pull out if things go terribly wrong after 1997.

Businessmen like to compare Hong Kong to the goose that laid the golden eggs and imply Beijing will not be so foolish to mess it up. I always find this analogy chilling: We all know what happens to the goose in that story.

KIN-MING LIU,  
Hong Kong.

## Guns and the World

Guns make killers more dangerous, from Scotland to Somalia. Thomas Hamilton could not have killed 16 children and their teacher in Dunblane, Scotland, last March without his guns. In the Third World, the easy availability of guns has seen disputes that once would have been settled with a fistfight spiral into massacres.

A young Somali boy's description of gunmen illustrates the tragedy that guns have caused in his country:

"If they did not have the gun, they would be nothing. That's why they must lose their guns. Without the guns anyone can defend himself against them. Of course, many of them have become used to violence, so they would probably go and get a knife. But they can only injure one

person at a time with a knife. But with the gun, many innocent people are killed all the time."

In Britain, the government's pledge to ban most handguns acknowledges the link between the availability of guns and the number of firearms deaths. Yet the acceptance of this link sits uneasily alongside Britain's willingness to export weapons to some of the world's most unscrupulous regimes. In recent years, British-owned companies have sold guns to countries including Turkey, Indonesia and Nigeria. It is widely accepted that these states regularly commit serious violations of human rights.

It will be a tragic feature of Britain's current gun-control debate if guns are banned at home yet are exported freely abroad. Britain and other European countries already have agreed on a set of criteria to govern the arms trade. These should prevent governments from exporting guns to dictatorial regimes, countries with poor human rights records and regions of instability. The criteria, however, are nonbinding and open to widely different interpretation.

ANTONIA HINDS,  
London.

The writer is media officer at Saferworld, an independent research group advocating practical steps to help prevent armed conflict.

A Satisfied American  
Gives Holiday Thanks

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — I was in Italy last month. Along with some friends, my wife and I toured the Chianti region — splendid hill town after splendid hill town. We ate, we drank, we took in the views and then, later, zoomed down to Rome for a bella time. A friend who lives part of the time in Italy tells me you can live better there than any other

## MEANWHILE

place on Earth. I do not doubt him. Still, it is Thanksgiving weekend and I'd rather be here.

I know what my friend means. America is no longer unique in having a high standard of living. A person with some money can live better elsewhere. Italy, for one, dazzles the eye. It is a stylish country of stylish people who seem to feel a genuine obligation to dress in a manner that contributes to the overall aesthetic. As for the food, I have nothing original to say on the subject. Just let me eat.

For some people, the country of passion is France, or Switzerland or Britain or ... it doesn't matter. My point is there are many places where a person can live well. The America of my childhood, unique and special, is gone. The bar charts of my school texts — the ones showing U.S. production in electricity or cars or steel — once swelled my chest. There was the American, bar, a virtual skyscraper, and next to it was a row of tenements — little countries with little to boast about.

But if you know some history, there are few places you can go where the ghosts of yesterday don't make unexpected appearances.

The prosperity of present-day Europe is layered over a vast killing field, places where in my lifetime one people has turned on another with a bestiality that is incomprehensible. To merely list what one group of Europeans did to another group of Europeans in just this century would easily take the rest of this column. Bosnia alone could fill the page — and the story continues.

America has no such history. That is a blanket statement, mostly true for most Americans, sorely off the mark for African-Americans and Native Americans. For the latter, we have had our own

killing fields — not just battlefields where warriors fought, but places where women and children were massacred by men wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army.

For African-Americans, too, the American experience has hardly been one of unalloyed joy. They came here as slaves, in unspeakable conditions. For many blacks, slavery evolved into a kind of serfdom, but even for those who were more fortunate, there was always bigotry and discrimination. One picture of a particular lynching sticks in my mind. It shows a crowd of white men, mostly dressed in suits and ties, standing around smiling and laughing as a black man is murdered. The picture has an undeniable Holocaust quality to it.

It is both very American and very alien at the same time. Yet when a Texaco executive was accused of saying "nigger," I asked my colleagues if they had ever heard the word used in a workplace setting. The answer, always, was no, never.

Certainly, that has been my experience, although, yes, I have heard it on the street, once directed at a little girl with whom I had gone for a walk. I know many African-Americans think this is the way whites talk when they are not around — but not anymore, at least not as far as I know.

So I think — I know — that things are getting better here. I think — I damn well know — that in my own field, where once I had few black colleagues, I now have many. I can drive through suburbs that once could only have been white, and now they are black. And not too long ago, Virginia had a black governor, Douglas Wilder. This is the state where every highway seems to be named for a Confederate general.

By nature and occupation, I am a cynic. But this country is mostly good and mostly going in the right direction. Yes, of course, we have a ways to go. Yes, of course, we are not yet perfect. But America has been good to me and my family — to my mother born in Poland, to my father raised in an orphanage, and so on this holiday I want to say thanks. Some people say you can live better elsewhere — but only, I think, if you know you can always come back home.

The Washington Post.

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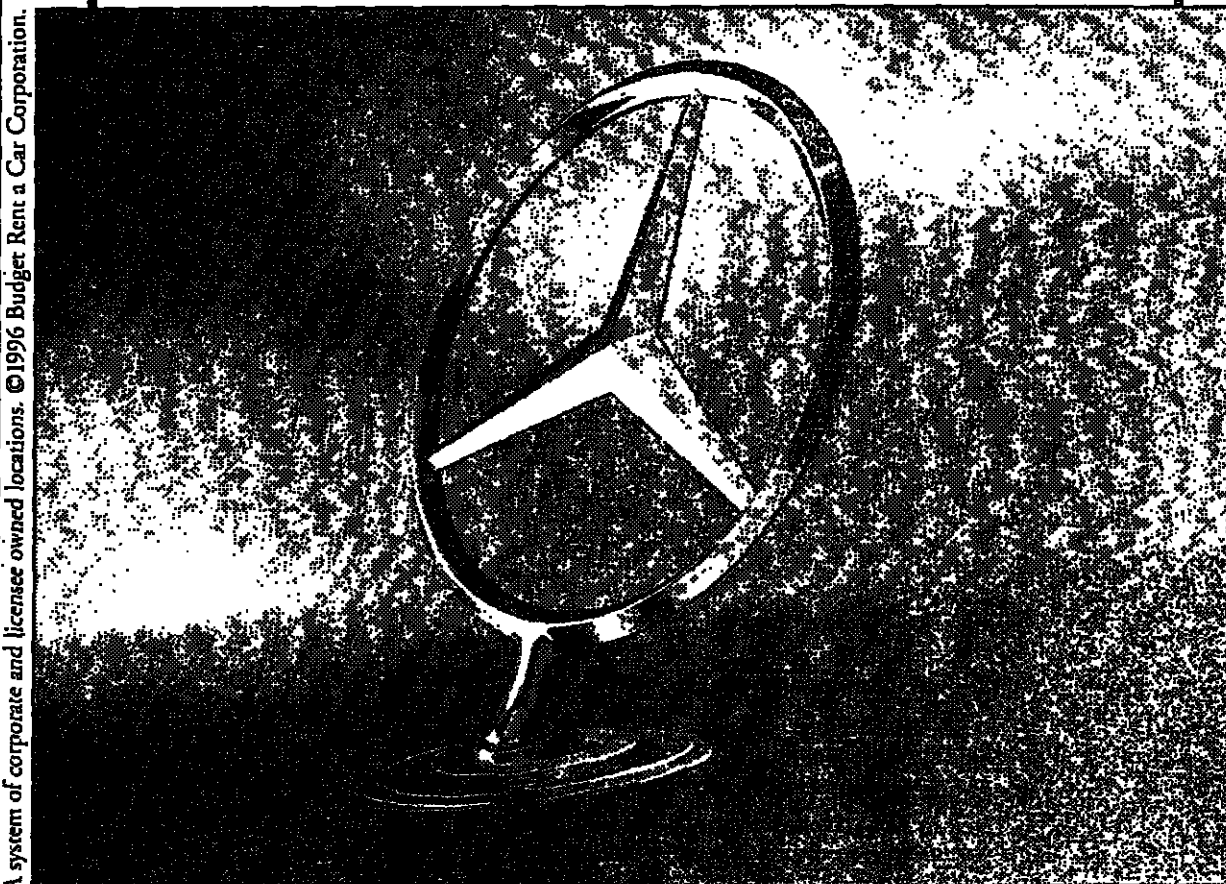
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## INTERNATIONAL

## Danish Truckers Call Off Four-Day Blockade

**COPENHAGEN** — With their horns blaring, scores of huge trucks drove away from a key border crossing Thursday night as truckers ended a four-day blockade that paralyzed Denmark's exports and threatened to empty store shelves at home.

The decision to end the blockade came at a meeting of about 2,000 truckers at Padborg, the main land crossing into Germany, where the protest against a tax regulation had begun before spread-

ing to other crossings and ferry ports. The drivers were protesting a regulation that allows them to deduct only 150 kroner (\$26) from their income taxes for each day they work outside the country. Danes working abroad in certain other occupations can deduct as much as 500 kroner. The government has proposed to raise the deduction to 250 kroner and promised to look further into the regulation.

A spokesman for the truckers, Ole Pruesse, said they would start block-

ading again if lawmakers did not live up to their promises.

"Let's drive — now!" drivers shouted, after protest leaders, a lawyer and sympathizers urged them to end the blockade before public opinion turned against them.

"It's better to stop now than we have gained sympathy in Parliament and in the population," one trucker told Denmark's DR-1 television channel.

About 3,000 trucks took part in the blockade, which brought exports to a

standstill and prevented trucks carrying imports from entering the country.

The action stalled many of the trucks that use ferries to transport domestically produced goods between Denmark's many islands. Supermarket chains on Zealand, the island where Copenhagen is situated, said supplies of fresh meat, fruits, vegetables and milk were running short. The blockade was a serious blow to Danish exporters of meat and fish, and especially to the seasonal Christmas-tree business. (AP Reuters)

## FRANCE: Truckers Dig In Over Pay Issues

Continued from Page 1

snippets of the impact: In Toulouse, in the south, only one gas station was open, while in Marseilles, 20 were open but for emergency needs only. The police were enforcing the restrictions.

In Tourcoing in the north, all major roads into Belgium were blocked. In Caen, the center of the Norman town was empty of customers, and one retailer estimated Christmas sales had fallen 30 percent. Factories and small businesses were also beginning to close in scattered locations. Hundreds of workers went on "technical unemployment," as it is called here, because their businesses could not operate without supplies.

The crisis even affected turkey farmers near Lyon, who said their fowl would start dying over the weekend if food and heating fuel could not be delivered.

In France, as in most places, it is against the law to block the roads. But this is a country with a long tradition of popular unrest in the streets, and so far the government has made no threat to get the parked trucks off the highways.

"There is a moment when the law stands aside against social reality," said Rene Valladon, secretary-general of the economy section of the Workers' Force, one of the major unions. "It's French culture."

Unlike the strikes last year, this work action involves private-sector workers. The government has acted as mediator and, in the issues that have been settled so far, has made nearly all the concessions.

The government agreed this week to cut the retirement age for truckers from 60 to 55, one of the youngest retirement limits in Europe's private sector. The state largely finances retirement pensions. The government also agreed to reduce some tax payments by trucking companies if the money saved went for other benefits demanded by the drivers.

Such concessions were painful for a country struggling, like the rest of Europe, to reduce its large budget deficit to meet the economic targets for a single European currency by the end of 1997. But they were not sufficient. The trucking companies and the unions could not agree on the final wage and hour demands, which do not involve the government, and marathon talks broke down early Thursday.

The government negotiator, Robert Cros, resigned, saying his mission had been largely accomplished. Transport Minister Bernard Pons tried to put a good face on the end of the negotiations by saying that the talks had succeeded and that he saw no reason why the highway barricades should not come down.

But he warned later that if a resolution was not reached rapidly, "I will propose that the government do it by decree."

Like many industries in Europe, the trucking industry is struggling with de-regulation, new competition and over-

capacity. As of 1998, trucking companies from any country in the European Union will be able to carry goods anywhere they find business, including between cities in countries not their own.

Striking drivers are trying to force all companies to adhere to a 1994 agreement limiting work hours, which only 30 percent follow. Drivers earn about \$2,000 a month for 230 hours of work. But along with the shorter hours, they want the same pay. Depending how it is calculated, that amounts to an increase of 23 percent to 30 percent. The companies are offering about 2 percent.

Stephane Levesque of the industry group National Federation of Road Transport said that many of the strikers were permanent union employees, not actual drivers, and that many of the trucks in the long, still lines were just trapped.

Still, he said, "I think the authorities will have to intervene."

## Swiss Ease Truck Size Rules

Switzerland agreed to a limited relaxation of its strict size limits on trucks Thursday to allow loads of such perishable goods as fruit and vegetables to get around France's strike-blocked roads. Reuters reported from Bern. But the Federal Office of Police Affairs, in charge of road rules, said it had rejected a request from international transporters for a general lifting of size limits that effectively bar most trans-European trucking.

## Bomb Damages French Courthouse

Agence France-Press

**LIMOGES, France** — A bomb seriously damaged the facade and entrance hall of a courthouse in Limoges, in central France, but caused no casualties, police said Thursday.

The bomb, which police said was made with 500 grams (1.1 pounds) of plastic explosive, was thought to have been planted outside the entrance. The courthouse's massive wooden door was blown to bits, and four vehicles parked nearby were wrecked.

Separately, a small bomb slightly damaged the Marseille office of a company that operates ferries between France and the Mediterranean island of Corsica, according to local firemen. They said that a passer-by was slightly injured and that nearby parked cars were damaged.

There was no immediate claim for either bombing, but a banned separatist group, the Corsican National Liberation Front, has claimed responsibility for recent bombings in Bordeaux, Nimes and Aix-en-Provence.

## PRODI: Italy Faces Uphill Battle to Euro

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Prodi said President Jacques Chirac of France "made clear to me in a telephone conversation this past weekend that he wants Italy in the single currency, and I am grateful to him for his support and also to Spain."

Mr. Prodi also made these other points during the interview:

• A new round of reforms to Italy's pension system would be "obligatory" in 1998. "I want to start immediately a wide and deep discussion with industry and trade unions of pension reform, just like in any other country in Europe."

• The multibillion-dollar privatization of the state telecommunications company STET "will go ahead next May, after we have merged STET with Telecom Italia."

• His government will decide early in 1997 on how to interpret a Supreme Court ruling that the media magnate Silvio Berlusconi must divest one of his three television networks. "We are obliged to obey our Supreme Court. Of course, all the details are still under discussion."

• There should be no amnesty for those caught up in the Tangentopoli, or "Kickback City," corruption scandal.

Mr. Prodi also rejected a call from the president of Fiat, Cesare Romiti, for Italy to delay its single currency ambitions by one or two years. Asked to comment on the view of Gianni Agnelli, the former Fiat president who said Wednesday that a delay in joining the single currency "would not be a tragedy," Mr.

Prodi said that would depend on "one's concept of tragedy." He said: "I think it would be an enormous tragedy."

Mr. Prodi conceded there was no chance Italy would meet the Maastricht treaty's condition requiring total debt to equal no more than 60 percent of GDP by 1997. "But we will be trending downward," he said "and there are other countries also in a similar situation."

"When I came to government," said Mr. Prodi, 57, "there was no chance of attaining the Maastricht conditions. Now there is a high chance, let us say an increasing chance, and objective observers say there is a better than 50-50 chance of Italy's joining the first wave of countries launching the single currency." Although he said the government had no plans to introduce a supplementary budget in the spring to further squeeze into the Maastricht criteria, Mr. Prodi said that to avoid such a step Italy would need a growth rate of 2 percent in 1997.

Most private-sector economists and some ministers of the Prodi government say Italy will be lucky to achieve even 1.5 percent growth next year.

Commenting on the resumption this week of the Italian lira into Europe's currency grid at a rate of 990 lire per Deutsche mark, Mr. Prodi rejected criticism from some Italian industrialists who said that this level is not favorable to exports. "We have a balance of trade surplus here," he said, "but still high interest rates, and so the rate of 990 is fair."



FLYING CARPET — Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kaharati's helicopter lifting the red strip Thursday as the Jordanian visited Jericho.

## TAIWAN: Clinton and Mandela Help Beijing Score Diplomatic Points Against Taipei

Continued from Page 1

isolated in their support of Taipei over Beijing.

With the upcoming Clinton-Jiang reciprocal visits likely to lead to a cooling down of Washington's relations with Taipei, analysts said this week had amounted to a major setback for Taiwan and its attempt to break free of China's

efforts to isolate the island in the international arena.

That mood is not likely to improve anytime soon. In December, as the first step in the improving Chinese relationship with the United States, the defense minister and deputy chairman of the powerful central military commission, Chi Haotian, is scheduled to make a long-delayed visit to the United States.

Washington's arms sales to Taipei are likely to feature prominently in Mr. Chi's talks with U.S. officials.

But some academic analysts dispute the long-held notion that improved ties between Washington and Beijing automatically mean that Taipei's interests are sacrificed. This time around, some said, Mr. Jiang may be more anxious than Mr. Clinton to have a state visit to

Washington since he may be trying to shore up his own standing within the Chinese Communist Party by brandishing his credentials as a statesman.

In that case, the theory goes, Mr. Jiang would be unwilling to make any bold or intimidating gestures against Taiwan for fear of jeopardizing his Washington visit and Mr. Clinton's reciprocal trip to Beijing in 1998.



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## VW: A Truce With GM?

Continued from Page 1

This week's 5 percent drop in VW's stock price also shows that investors no longer ignore the prospect of multibillion-dollar damages against VW in the GM suit, said Falk Frey, industry analyst at Bank Julius Baer.

Analysts estimate that damages in the case could run to more than 3 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.96 billion), enough to more than wipe out a full year's earnings at VW. GM said it was too early in its legal strategy to enumerate the potential damages, but the Detroit News cited a figure of \$4 billion.

For GM and its German-based unit Adam Opel AG, VW's legal setbacks have opened a way to intensify the public-relations assault on its German rival.

GM has used each new ruling as an opportunity to repackaging its charges from the Detroit suit, often emphasizing allegations of "conspiracy and racketeering," as it did Tuesday.

For VW, which calls GM's tactic a "smear campaign," the Lopez affair has swelled to a new crescendo at an unfavorable time.

"Far graver than the legal dispute and incalculable in its negative consequences is the damage to the reputation to the VW group that goes along with the years of pending hearings," an editorial in Handelsblatt said.

Few industries in the United States evoke such highly charged emotions as automobiles, particularly imported ones, VW's own executives concede.

The issue is back on the front burner at a time VW needs to defend its reputation ahead of a fresh advance into GM's home turf in the U.S. car market, the world's biggest, analysts said.

In a few months, VW wants to launch its restyled Passat in the United States. In two years, a modernized and re-engineered Volkswagen Beetle, aimed at U.S. buyers, will roll off production lines in Mexico. VW closed its only U.S.-based plant in 1988, a year when it sold 168,800 cars in North America.

By 1993, the year in which VW posted a pretax loss of 1.3 billion DM and Mr. Lopez jumped to VW, its U.S. sales had slumped to fewer than 50,000 vehicles.

The image of Mr. Piech, also named as a defendant in GM's Detroit suit, sitting as a defendant in a U.S. court "would be worth more for the U.S. auto concern than the most expensive advertising campaign of all times," Handelsblatt wrote in the editorial.

"The thing that concerns us more than anything is the implications for the CEO," said Thomas Holmes, an analyst at Schroeder Muenchmeyer Hengst & Co.

## ACCESS: The Big Clinton Donor Who Kept 'Popping Up' at the White House

Continued from Page 1

Democratic National Committee officials, who recently have returned nearly \$1.5 million in large, foreign-linked contributions because of apparent illegalities or improprieties, insisted that Mr. Chung's donations were both legal and proper.

But senior administration officials acknowledged that Mr. Chung received various invitations to the White House and often talked his way into the mansion by informing staff members that he was a big Democratic donor. These officials said there was nothing wrong with granting Mr. Chung himself frequent entrance, but they were uneasy that he may have used the White House visits and photos to promote his business affairs.

"The White House is concerned when anyone misrepresents their relationship with the White House or when they use their access to the White House for their own private commercial purposes, which is what we believe may have happened here," Mr. McCurry said.

In the annals of unconventional donors to emerge from the controversy over large contributions to the Democratic committee, Mr. Chung stands out. Few donated so much after previously giving nothing at all, or so aggressively sought to bask in the limelight of the presidency and the trappings of White House power.

Mr. Chung has not been shy about exploiting his contacts with the Clintons to enhance the prospects for his business, a fax broadcast system, and the financial interests of his friends.

His sales pitch to potential clients includes a thick portfolio filled with color photographs of himself and a

smiling President Bill Clinton together at the president's 48th birthday party and inside the Oval Office, according to interviews with people who have witnessed Mr. Chung in action. A copy of his brochure contains no fewer than 10 photos of Mr. Chung with Mrs. Clinton and a personal handwritten note from the first lady thanking him "for your support and friendship."

In his appearance, Mr. Chung hardly fits the profile of a top Democratic donor. The 41-year-old, one-time engineering student resides in a middle-class neighborhood, and his business ventures appear to have enjoyed only modest success after leaving a trail of closed companies, creditors and lawsuits in recent years.

Mr. Chung declined numerous requests for an interview but said in a written statement: "While I am honored and privileged to have met the president and various officials,

neither I nor my company have received any preferential treatment from the White House or any government official — merely occasional words of encouragement."

Mr. Chung, according to his business manager, Irene Wu, realized during the 1992 presidential campaign that political and government offices were ideal customers for his fax service. He traveled to Arkansas, banged on the door of the governor's mansion and spoke to Mrs. Clinton.

A senior White House official who recently discussed Mr. Chung with Mrs. Clinton said the first lady "remembers coming in contact with him at some point in Little Rock that he had an idea for a business; he was trying to promote and remember being encouraging."

Mrs. Clinton added that Chung "kept popping up," the official said.

## Beer Drinkers Vs. Gene-Splitters

Reuters

**BONN** — German politicians who want to protect the purity of their beer have drafted legislation to prevent the use of genetically altered ingredients by brewers.

A bill from the opposition Social Democrats calls for genetically manipulated barley, hops and yeast to be banned from brewing conforming to Germany's famous Purity Law for beer, the journal of the lower house of Parliament reported Thursday.

The politicians noted with concern that genetically altered barley and yeast were already available.

## JAPAN: Court Finds Bank Guilty of Sex Discrimination

Continued from Page 1

pressure from bosses and co-workers to follow a more "normal" course.

Nonetheless, in recent years more women have postponed marriage, or even rejected it altogether, and stayed in the workplace. As they do, pressure is building from Japanese women who want the kind of opportunities available to their American and European counterparts.

In 1990, a Japanese court for the first time ruled that unequal pay for women and men was illegal.

The ruling Wednesday is expected to raise the chances of at least 10 other lawsuits that have been filed against employers over systematic denial of management positions to women.

Supporters say the ruling could force more employers to re-evaluate how they treat female employees. But many believe that sexual attitudes among Japanese men, and acceptance of them among many Japanese women, will be extremely slow to change.

Minoko Banjaku, 63, one of the women who filed the lawsuit, said Thursday that she started at the bank when she was 18 years old and worked there for 42 years before she retired three years ago. During that time, she said she put herself through college at night and desperately wanted to advance alongside her male colleagues.

"Some of the men who started my year ended up on the board of

directors," she said. "Shouldn't have had that chance?"

The nearly \$900,000 award to the 12 women, aged 48 to 63, was back pay. All except Miss Banjaku have since retired, and are to be promoted immediately, the court ruled.

Takehiko Sakai, a bank official said the credit union had already appealed the verdict and was optimistic that it would be overturned. His bank, he said, has one pay standard for both men and women and "promotion is given on an exam system" that is fair to both sexes.

The Tokyo District Court rejected the company's argument that they were almost no female managers because they had not passed an examination.

## ALGERIA: Turnout Is High as Algerians Brave Violence to Go to the Polls

Continued from Page 1

station. "Here people need jobs, they need homes, they need a decent wage. Without them, they are driven toward extremism."

It was the policy of districts like Bourouba, combined with rampant disillusionment at the gross economic mismanagement of Algeria under decades of single-party rule by the National Liberation Front, that provided the roots of support for the Islamic Salvation Front in the early 1990s.

The new constitution attempts to close this chapter by doing two things: banning any party "founded on a religious basis," while at the same time giving Islam a greater role in the functioning of the state.

The first measure is supposed to preclude the possibility that the Islamic Salvation Front, or anything like it, could ever emerge legally again into political prominence. The second — evident in clauses that establish Islam as "the religion of the state," call for the creation of a higher Islamic council, and bar state institutions from engaging "in practices contrary to Islamic morals" —

appears designed to dampen the political leverage of Islam for any opposition party while comforting Islamic moderates.

Mahfoud Nehmah, the leader of the Hamas Party, a moderate Islamic force in Algeria, encouraged his followers to vote in the referendum and intimated that he was not opposed to the new constitution.

Western diplomatic sources believe that Mr. Nehmah, who received 23 percent of the vote in the elections won by Mr. Zeroual last year, could eventually reach an accommodation with the authorities designed to turn his party — perhaps under a modified name — into something close to Islam's official political channel in Algeria.

What seems clear is that occasional attempts since 1992 to reach out to the Islamic Salvation Front and find some compromise are now at an end. There have long been elements within the military-dominated coterie that runs Algeria that favored such talks, but hard-liners appear to have won this internal battle.

"The repression of the opposition in the run-up to the vote, the massive military presence in

the street, the climate of fear — all this suggests that those who want to eradicate the Islamic Front are feeling newly confident," said a Western diplomat. "The problem is that the war is not won. The Islamic opposition groups do not have the power to overthrow the government, but they are there."

The Armed Islamic Group, an extremist splinter group of the Islamic Front, threatened to kill anyone who voted in the referendum. But state authorities said the turnout among Algeria's 16 million eligible voters was high.

The constitution appears to create a veneer of democracy by allowing the formation of political parties, but severely curtails the power of their representatives in Parliament.

A second chamber, the Council of the Nation, is to be created. One-third of its members will be picked directly by the president, and the remainder by secret ballots in municipal, communal and regional assemblies. Because any measure will have to be approved by three-quarters of the council to become law, the president will have an effective veto over the legislature.

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## LEISURE

## Fear of Flying? One Passenger's Back-to-School Solution

By Debbie Seaman

**S**YDNEY — Our flight was halfway between New York and Washington when we felt the plane drop out of the sky. That is, the aircraft lost altitude so suddenly and dramatically that the passengers gave a collective gasp. Gripped with gut-wrenching terror, my knuckles white and my face contorted in a mask of horror, I was convinced not only that I was about to die violently, but also that I would have several more minutes to be conscious of this inevitability, as our plane plummeted to the earth in a ball of fire.

Of course, the plane leveled off. The pilot, in the same cozy drawl he had used to give us the weather report, came on the PA system to inform us that he had had to avoid a small aircraft.

The incident, 12 years ago, was the moment when flying began to inspire dread instead of excitement. With each consecutive flight — and I've always been an inveterate traveler — the fear fed upon itself until, a couple of years later, it blossomed into phobia.

The takeoffs were the worst. As the jet lumbered heavily skyward, I was sure it would simply lose momentum and crash. I felt emotionally flayed. I had control neither over the feelings I was host to — terror, discomfort, vulnerability and downright dislike and distaste — nor over their snowballing.

The discomfort was exacerbated by the slightest change in engine sound. "What's that?" I would gasp to my husband, my fingers digging into his arm, as I heard a high, whining sound in the bowels of the jet. "Why is the plane doing that?" I would demand of a bemused steward, who explained that those minor fits and starts I felt during takeoff were caused by the wind.

Once the aircraft had reached its cruising altitude, my emotions seemed manageable as long as we didn't hit any major turbulence. Landings were almost tolerable because I figured that we were close enough to the ground that the plane ought to be able to get down safely.

After a while I couldn't even turn to my husband any more. He adores flying, especially the takeoff. Once, when we were en route to the States from Sydney and I whimpered that I couldn't abide this terror any longer, he snapped, "Well, do something about it!"

## EIGHT-WEEK COURSE

That was when I contacted Fearless Flyers Inc., run by members of the Australian Women Pilots Association and sponsored by Qantas at that airline's base at Sydney Airport. They offered a fear-flying clinic, three-hour sessions every Tuesday night for eight weeks for \$351, including a round-trip Sydney-to-Melbourne flight at the end.

As I am an American married to an

Australian and have to endure long hauls if I want to see my family in New York, I resolved that I wanted to stop huddling in my seat, quivering during takeoffs, thinking, "I can never again in my life go through this terror." I wanted to get well. What I hadn't expected was to have fun doing it. But, taken under the wings of Glenda Philpott and other female pilots from the Sydney area, we were given an enthusiastic eight-week immersion into the world of aviation that was usually reassuring and often exciting.

As 18 of us sat in a training room, we were told that one in five people suffers from fear of flying. We soon took the first steps in overcoming those fears. Bryan Burke, a doctor of psychology at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, took us through relaxation exercises, a combination of deep, slow breathing and the tensing and releasing of different muscle groups. Later we were told to picture ourselves in a room where we felt the safest. "Don't watch the horror movies," Burke admonished.

More important to me, however, was the education and exposure we received to every aspect of aviation. We ascended the Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Center and watched, mesmerized, as the jets took off and landed on a clear night. We went on a "jet crawl," an exploration inside, around and under a Boeing 747 docked in a Qantas hangar, a session designed for desensitization. Another night we toured the flight-crew training

center, where crew members are taught to evacuate a plane virtually blindfolded in 90 seconds. We were taught that Qantas pilots are required to visit the airline's flight simulator regularly to practice dealing with malfunctions such as stalls, when the plane loses altitude because its position does not allow the air to flow properly over the wings, as well as aborted takeoffs and landings.

One night I confessed my constant concerns that the plane would simply drop out of the sky. John Dennis, a Qantas captain, smiled and asked me what I thought would happen if all engines on a 747 lost power. The stricken look on my face was my reply, but he reassured me that this is more or less what happens every time a plane begins its descent: the thrust of the engine is reduced almost to idling, and the plane virtually glides to its destination. A video on jet maintenance, as well as the tour of the jet maintenance center, showed us that these giant machines are gone over with the finest of fine tooth combs.

**W**E covered weather and turbulence. We learned to eradicate the term air pocket from our vocabularies and think of the air as a fluid in motion, like the sea. We discovered that the only harm that could come to us from turbulence was an injury caused by an unfastened seat belt. No single aspect of the course, however, did as much to make me feel

better about flying as a whirl in one of Qantas's \$15 million flight simulators. Boxy machines on silts trailing air hoses that help induce motion, they look on the outside like creatures out of "War of the Worlds" and are so realistic on the inside, from the whine of the engines to the view of the runway projected on the windshield, that I panicked after I had impulsively volunteered to "fly" a 747 simulator.

Fear turned to awe as, under the tutelage of a Qantas flight engineer, Paul Blanch, in the pilot's seat, I got it into the air from a simulated Hong Kong Airport and kept it there, marveling at the sensitivity of the cockpit instruments as I banked to the left.

I am still not sure why this ride seemed so reassuring, aside from the fact that it demonstrated the ease of handling of even such a huge machine. Perhaps it was because those of us who obsessed about not being in control felt more secure about being in good hands.

Although I had been optimistic about the graduation flight, I was host to a case of pit-of-the-stomach nerves as I arrived at the airport. A final relaxation session helped. Still, my palms were sweaty when, having been picked to sit in the takeoff, my old bete noire, I proceeded to the flight deck of the 747-400.

Dennis, our erstwhile professor, was a familiar face in the pilot's seat. Listening on my headphones as the plane prepared to start out from the gate, I was

struck by the sense of solemn ritual and regimentation that characterized all his communications with the tower as well as with other crew members. Actually, it was comforting to me, perched 32 feet above the runway in the nose of this behemoth, that nobody lapsed into lighthearted banter.

As the voice on the radio cleared us for takeoff, the runway we had swung onto looked as if it stretched into infinity, and the engines roared to life. So did my adrenalin.

**TRIGGERS AND FEEDBACK** Looking back on the one-hour flight, I can see that the same old triggers set me off: the movements of the climb, the engine sounds, the bumps and grinds of turbulence. The difference was, though, that the fear lasted only until my mind fed back the information I had gleaned from the course. When I compared my relatively mild anxiety to the terror that used to grip me in the air, I knew I was getting better.

With another overseas marathon looming, I have just bought tickets for the Fearless Flyer reunion dinner. I am told that about 200 people are expected to attend, including some graduates who have gone on to get pilots' licenses. I'll be happy, thank you very much, being a placid passenger.

Debbie Seaman wrote this for The New York Times.

## ARTS GUIDE

## BELGIUM

**BRUSSELS**  
La Monnaie, tel: (2) 229-12-11.  
"Die Zauberflöte." Directed by Ursel and Karl-Erhard Hermann, conducted by David Robertson, with Kenneth Cox/Carsten Stabell, Cyndia Sieden/Elena Vink, and Ernst Theo Richter. Dec. 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19.

## BRITAIN

**LONDON**  
British Museum, tel: (171) 323-8525, open daily. Continuing! To Jan. 5: "Mysteries of Ancient China."  
Royal Opera, Covent Garden, tel: (171) 304-4000. Puccini's "Tosca." Directed by Jeremy Satchell, conducted by Edward Downes/Plácido Domingo (Dec. 9), with Galina Gorchakova, Keith Olsen and James Morris. Nov. 30, Dec. 3, 9 and 11.

## FINLAND

**HELSINKI**  
The Museum of Contemporary Art, tel: (9) 17-33-51, closed Mondays. To Jan. 26: "Living Pencil: Photographs." Portraits, fashion photographs from the 1950s and still lifes by the American photographer (born 1917).

## FRANCE

**PARIS**  
American Cathedral, tel: 01-53-23-84-00, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.: "An American Christmas." Under Joel Cohen, the Boston Camerata performs American carols, spirituals and Shaker songs on historical instruments from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The audience is encouraged to sing along.  
Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing! To Jan. 20: "Picasso et le Portrait."

## GERMANY

**COLOGNE**  
Josef Haubrich-Kunststalle, tel: (221) 221-23-35, closed Mondays. To Jan. 12: "Star Trek: The Exhibition." A behind-the-scenes



An 1888 view of Niagara Falls, on show in Washington.

look at the famous television series with a display of original artifacts, models and costumes. The exhibition will travel to Edinburgh, Manchester and London.

## ITALY

**VENICE**  
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (41) 522-1375, continuing! To Dec. 8: "Magna Grecia: I Greci in Occidente."

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in VADUZ with the night of holidays at the VADUZ-HOTEL in ALGARVE. Are you a shareholder of T.C.I. and interested in the holiday? We are looking for shareholders to join us for the holiday of your rights. Please contact: Mrs. Martins, Rua D. Carlos de Mascarenhas 17 - 39, 1070 Lisboa - Portugal. FAX: (00351) 1 365 25 28

## SKI HOLIDAYS

(Special heading for Ski Holidays) will be appearing again on Friday, December 6th. For more details please contact: International Herald Tribune, Tel: Paris (01) 41 43 30 00, Fax: Paris (01) 41 43 30 70, Email: chris@iht.com

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## LEISURE

# The Lure Of Irish Cooking

## A Culinary Tour of Cork

By Maureen B. Fant

**C**ORK, Ireland — Even as I began my Irish-born grandmother for the absence of spices and strong statements in her cooking, I began to suspect that she was operating on a higher plane than the practitioners of the more piquant cuisines I loved. But she held in contempt dishes designed to conceal inferior quality, for her the cook's job was merely to guide the best ingredients to the table in as near their natural state as possible. The secret of this approach lies, of course, in being able to recognize—and obtain—the perfect foods. On a recent trip to County Cork (reputedly one of the most interesting food areas in Ireland), I learned that this is what the so-called Irish cooking revolution is all about.

Underpopulated, agricultural Ireland today possesses a heritage of genuine foods industrialized out of existence elsewhere in Europe. Taking our instructions from John and Sally McKenna's superb book "The Bridgestone Irish Food Guide," my companion, Franco, and I visited four very different country houses and a chic city restaurant in our four-day trip.

**BALLYMALOE HOUSE** Ballymaloe is the domain of Myrtle Allen, the gifted grande dame of the new wave of Irish cookery, aided by several of her children, children-in-law (such as the chef, Rory O'Connell) and grandchildren. The house is a hotel of 30 rooms as well as a restaurant seating about 80, hidden outside the hamlet of Shanagarry, 20 miles east of Cork City. On a busy Saturday evening, all five dining rooms were full. We arrived with no preconceptions about what a sophisticated restaurant on an Irish farm might serve. Well, it was soul food — my grandmother's cooking plus that Continental note I'd always longed for. We ordered conservatively, choosing the most traditional-sounding dishes. The menu grows naturally each day from the available ingredients, most of which are from within a few miles of Ballymaloe.

As in all the country house restaurants we visited, there is a prix fixe menu, for \$32.50 (all prices calculated at \$1.75 to the Irish punt). We began with a cucumber mold (bits of cucumber suspended in a yogurt and cream dressing) with flavorful tomatoes and a tomato cream dressing. This was followed by a fish course — I had a tasty baked cod with a hint of mustard in the cheese sauce, Franco the rather bland (or delicate, depending on your point of view) white fish mousse topped with an oyster. The excellent beef served at Ballymaloe comes from just down the road in Cloyne. Franco had it as his main course, served with horseradish mayonnaise and tasty but dignified French-fried onions.

But the star of our meal was my tender and lean loin of bacon, which tasted like a cross between roast pork and baked ham, glazed with brown sugar and pineapple and served with an Irish Mist sauce and red cabbage. In true family style, seconds were offered in case "himself" (or herself) wasn't getting enough to eat. In place of seconds, at the waiter's suggestion we had a slice of the succulent roast goose.

**ASSOLAS COUNTRY HOUSE** It may look like a postcard, but for all its elegance, Assolas, a big 17th-century house practically camouflaged by greenery about an hour's drive north of Cork City is a home, and that is how guests are made to feel by their host, Joe Bourke (his wife, Hazel, is the chef).

Menus are studied over aperitifs in the drawing room, then dinner is served in the red Queen Anne dining room that seats 25, where everyone speaks softly and service is discreet.



Myrtle Allen making bread at the Ballymaloe House.

For starters I had superb Irish omelette and smoked salmon with potato pancake and horseradish mayonnaise. My companion's juicy mussels in bricée dressed with a chive cream had more of a French accent. An excellent green salad, fresh from the garden, followed, but its herb dressing was overpowering. Mrs. Bourke's style is modern and light but also conservative, a showcase for the fine raw materials, with an occasional flourish such as the marinated pear that accompanied my roast duck. The bird was sliced thick and well done, in a rosemary-flavored gravy; refined but simple, it tasted like duck, with new sensations in every bite. My companion's brilliant filet with lots of mushrooms and a sauce with just a hint of red wine, was nice but lacked the thrill of discovery that came with the duck.

**LONGEVILLE HOUSE** This large Georgian house, dating back to 1720, is a sophisticated international hotel, but only up to a point. Dinner is served in two formal dining rooms. One, the nonsmoking Presidents' Restaurant, bright and Georgian, with a very high ceiling and magnificent marble fireplace, is hung with portraits of the Republic's presidents; the adjacent Library, where smoking is permitted, is darker and more sober.

The cuisine adds some exotic flourishes to superb local ingredients. The owner and chef, William O'Callaghan, was a pupil of Raymond Blanc, of Manoir aux Quat' Saisons outside Oxford, England.

We began with a piquant avocado mousse with a creamy leek salad and sesame biscuits and an exquisite Asian fantasy in the form of a crabmeat and coconut patty served with stir-fried vegetables flavored with ginger and coriander. These were followed by a delicious thick parsnip soup with chives and a simply dressed perfect salad.

Variations on lamb baked in a potato and herb crust have been turning up on the better Continental menus quite a bit lately, but none that I've tasted have achieved the perfection of Franco's thick juicy loin slices of homebred lamb with tarragon sauce. In contrast, my fillets of black sole in a saffron and caper sauce were overcooked, though the Oriental-style ravioli stuffed with a mushroom and salmon mousse was ethereal.

The desserts too are sophisticated and excellent. We had a voluptuous pink loganberry mousse and a pyramid of thin sheets of chocolate containing a generous

amount of dreamy mint ice cream.

**LITTLEGOLDMOUNT HOUSE** This is a funny old brick house built in 1861 just outside the village of Timoleague 30 miles southwest of Cork City, near the coast. The rambling structure was the home of the owners, who now live in the converted stable, and most of the building serves as a hotel for up to 40 guests. A front room, with a stained glass window (from a time when the house was a convent) and splendid marble fireplace, contains a very good restaurant seating about 40. The co-owners, Con McLoughlin, and his wife, Karen Austin, share the cooking.

The prix fixe menu at Sunday lunch (\$19.25) offered four or five choices in each course, all based on local, often homegrown ingredients, many embellished with an unsuitable Mediterranean accent, more Provencal than Italian.

We began with a tasty tarragon-flavored cream of courgette soup, containing a good deal more zucchini than cream, and an elegantly presented terrine of pork and chicken with a homemade apple-tomato-ginger chutney, and an excellent salad from the garden. This was followed by lovely old-fashioned roast lamb, flavored with rosemary and sliced thick, and a superb herb-roasted chicken in a tarragon cream.

**ISAACS RESTAURANT** Cork City does not contain a great many restaurants (and the reputed best, Clifford's, has closed, at least for the moment), but Isaacs is one that is much talked about. The decor is modern, in one big attractive room in a renovated warehouse. The menu is modern international eclectic, but what it lacks in focus it makes up for in goodness. Even the salads were comforting on a cold, rainy day when I had lunch there.

Two succulent starters were the delicious chicken livers sautéed with sliced mushrooms, served over green salad, and chunks of sautéed chicken breast served over salad with croutons and cubes of blue cheese. A satisfying creamy seafood chowder was enriched with bacon. A stew of beautiful chunks of lamb and flaglets beneath a Parmesan crust was a superb, albeit imported, antidote to the local climate, as were traditional salmon cakes bound with lots of mashed potatoes and served with chive mayonnaise.

Maureen B. Fant, who lives in Rome, wrote this for The New York Times.

# How to Have a Capital Christmas

By Cynthia Hacinli

**W**ASHINGTON — The U.S. capital turns luminous during the holidays. The majestic architecture and classical lines of the landscape, much of it the vision of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, are a fitting backdrop for festive and merry-making. Even politics are cast aside for the moment as lawmakers and lobbyists revel in the less Grinchy pleasures of the season.

Lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse on Dec. 5 at 5:30 P.M. is the traditional prelude, done with pomp, fanfare and live entertainment. President Bill Clinton will flick the switch that illuminates the 40-foot (12-meter) tree. Lines for limited bleacher seating have been known to form as early as 2 P.M. Otherwise, it's standing room only on the Mall for this free event. The tree usually stays up until Jan. 1, and choruses and bands perform nightly from 6 to 9 P.M. through Christmas. Information: (202) 619-7183.

The White House is closed to tours until Tuesday so that staff members and volunteers can deck its halls. Tours resume on Wednesday and will continue to Dec. 31, when decorations are taken down. There are no tours Dec. 25 and regular tours resume Jan. 2. For information on daytime and candlelight tours (Dec. 26, 27 and 28), call (202) 456-7041.

Although tourists often don't venture beyond the three M's — the Mall, the monuments, the museums — Washington's neighborhoods merit a walk-through. Georgetown, with its Federal and Victorian homes and boutiques, gets the most hype. But others bear exploration: Dupont Circle, a few blocks northwest of the White House, a turn-of-the-century enclave of homes, galleries and restaurants; and, a bit farther north, Adams Morgan, with its nightlife.

The area along the 1300 to 1600 blocks of U Street is lined with clubs and coffeehouses, and art spaces and tapas bars have settled in the New Downtown (Seventh Street between E and I).

## HOLIDAY MUSIC

Half the appeal of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" is its setting: the round Elizabethan-style theater at the Folger Shakespeare Library at 201 East Capitol St. S.E. Performances combining art, words, music, storytelling and sing-along will be held until Dec. 22. Tickets are \$26 to \$32, \$16 to \$28 for children.

The Folger Library's well-regarded chamber group, Folger Consort, will play Renaissance brass, string and organ works Dec. 20 to 22 at St. Peter's Church, 313 Second St. S.E. (202) 544-7077. Tickets \$26.

Carols and other holiday music are on the Oratorio Society program Dec. 21, 22 and 23. Tickets are \$10 to \$34, half price for seniors and students. Performances of Handel's "Messiah" with the Washington Bach Consort Chorus and National Symphony are Dec. 19 to 22; tickets \$11 to \$47. Both concerts

will take place at the Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. N.W. (202) 467-4600.

At the turreted Heurich Manse, home to the Washington Historical Society, 1307 New Hampshire Ave. N.W. (202) 785-2068, Christmas is celebrated with the German traditions of the beer magnate Christian Heurich, who built the place in 1894. Period rooms will sport turn-of-the-century ornaments and greenery, and food and recipes used to make the holiday feast. Vis-

A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Admission free.

At the National Gallery East, Fourth and Constitution N.W., (202) 737-4215, "Encounters With Modern Art: Works From the Rothschild Family Collections" includes such well-known artists as Mondrian, Picasso and Brancusi, and such surprises as works by the unsung Sonia Delaunay, wife of the French painter Robert Delaunay. A way to get outdoors is to rent a pair of skates and cur-

cocktail, or wine is about \$70.

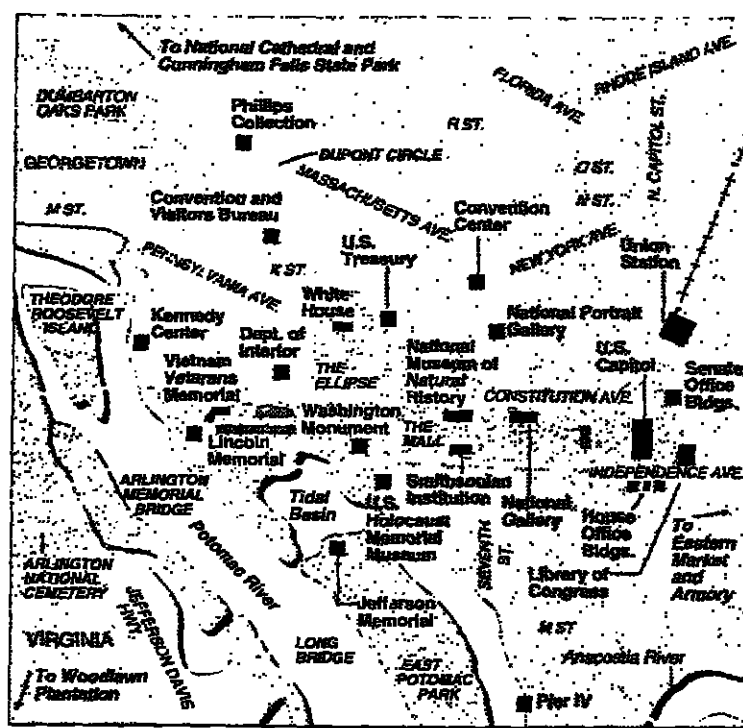
Asian street food is the inspiration at Raku, 1900 Q St. N.W., (202) 265-7258. The hip, Asian cartoons on the big screen and tall wooden bar stools give this crowded small restaurant a frenetic feel. Mix-and-match Pan Asian fare revolves around skewers, noodles, soups and Asian salads. Dinner with beer, sake or wine by the glass: about \$35.

Georgia Brown's, 950 15th St. N.W., (202) 393-4499, is a good place to try updated versions of Carolina shrimp with sausage and grits, pecan-crusted catfish, hoppin' John (a black-eyed pea and rice dish) and Frogmore stew, the South's answer to bouillabaisse with vegetables, seafood and rice. Vegetarian offerings are interesting too. About \$70.

Lepinasse, a sister of the outstanding restaurant in New York, opened last month in the Carlton Hotel, 16th and K streets N.W., (202) 879-6900. As in New York, the French menu has international influences: black bass with green papaya and sauternes broth, sirloin with yellow garlic chives and sesame vinaigrette, foie gras with figs and port. About \$150.

Aquarelle, 2650 Virginia Ave. N.W., (202) 298-4455, the new restaurant at the Watergate, opened this fall in space formerly occupied by Palladin and Jean Louis, with Robert Wiedmayer as chef. The menu is American-French, the dining room much as it was before, formal and with a matchless view of the Potomac. Offerings include duck foie gras with figs, Napoleon of salmon with roasted garlic purée and rabbit with sausage and savory cabbage. About \$150.

Cynthia Hacinli, a food and wine editor for Washingtonian Magazine, wrote this for The New York Times.



The New York Times

some figures at the National Gallery of Art Skating Rink, on the Mall at Constitution Avenue and Seventh St. N.W., (202) 371-5340.

**H**ERE are some tips for dining. Unless otherwise stated, prices are for a three-course dinner for two with wine; tax and tip not included.

Cafe Atlantico, 405 Eighth St. N.W., (202) 393-0812. This favorite of Washington's international set serves modish Latin American food such as brandade of cod and yucca, and mushroom-stuffed quail with guajillo pepper sauce. Dinner with a couple of mojitos, a rum and crushed mint

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## BOOKS

## THE PROSPECT BEFORE HER: A History of Women in Western Europe. Volume One 1500-1800

By Owen Hufon. 638 pages. \$35. Knopf.  
 Reviewed by Camille Paglia

**I**N Owen Hufon's "The Prospect Before Her" there is a riveting vignette: The fishwives of Britain, Holland and France (who marketed what their husbands caught or bought) were "a voracious bunch" — "coarse and unruly women" in the vanguard of political protest. To this day their name still describes shrill, fierce and formidable females.

Hufon's book offers a bounty of such anecdotal minutiae. English men too drunk to sustain an erection were said to suffer from "brewer's droop." German men "emasculated by their wives" were depicted as limps without claws. In 1652, Dutch Calvinist clergy condemned "goose-pulling tournaments where girls could fall over, showing more of their anatomy than was deemed modest." Venetian prostitutes identified themselves by wearing eye-catching, "high-heeled red shoes." Court records of prostitutes arrested in London between 1733 and 1739 show that "many gave false names, the favorite being Miss Nobody."

Hufon is professor of history at the European University Institute in Florence and the author of five scholarly books, concentrating on 18th-century

France. Her new book is the first of two volumes on women in Western Europe over the past 500 years.

"The Prospect Before Her" is admirably written in clear, accessible prose. Except for a faddish location in the first chapter title ("Constructing Woman"), it is unblemished by the kind of theoretical jargon or ideological bias that too often characterizes recent feminist and academic books.

Hufon's feel for the specific, gritty realities of everyday experience is the most appealing element of this book. She has a pungent way with words: "Fleas and polluted water are no respecters of persons." A country girl aspiring to marry was lucky to be taken on as a local farm servant: "Here she might learn, in addition to cleaning and scouring pots and pans, skills such as pickling, mulling, salting, preserving by smoking, drying, storing in grease or brine, working in the byres milking cows and goats and in the hen yard, hoeing vegetables, laying potatoes, weeding, haymaking." At annual British hiring fairs, peasant women looking for work "brandished the tools of their trade": "Cooks wore brightly coloured aprons and carried a large spoon, milkmaids a stool." Urban households employed a laundry woman once a month to do the heavy washing, which meant handling unwieldy, sopping wet sheets: "Like the milkmaid, the laundry maid was celebrated for her muscle power." Hufon's chapter on motherhood is particularly powerful:

"In every noble household and in the lowliest cottage, a birth was a collective drama, and the room of the birth was living theatre." She stresses "the public character of the birthing process," which was "women's business" and "the main way in which female sociability and solidarity expressed itself."

The book's later chapters, on French culture, are less successful. Oddly, as she moves into her own specialty, Hufon loses her sure sense of the general audience, most of whom will need to be more patiently briefed, for example, about the brilliant Parisian salons ruled by witty women of fashion. Except for a dramatic account of the march in October 1789 of 6,000 rebel women on the royal palace at Versailles, these chapters seem somewhat murky and fragmented.

There are, as well, some troubling sins of omission. Hufon's exposition has an excessive grime, a disproportionate emphasis on the hardship and misery of premodern life with little sense of its balancing assurances and satisfactions. Not until page 129, for example, does a positive emotion appear (in a passing reference to "dancing and jollification" in rural Italy). While the externals are well-established, the soul is often missing from Hufon's portraits. Most seriously, she seems to lack sympathy for or deep understanding of religious feeling.

Camille Paglia, the author of three best-selling books, wrote this for The Washington Post.

## BRIDGE

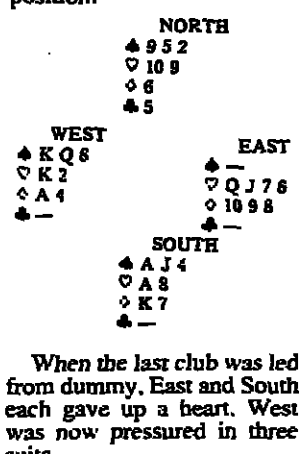
By Alan Truscott

**O**N the diagramed deal from the Life Master Open Pairs, Adam Wildavsky of Jackson Heights, Queens, found a subtle way to make an overtrick in three no-trump. His partner's raise to game had denied a spade stopper, so Wildavsky would have retreated if he had lacked a stopper in his own hand.

West obliged by leading a spade — almost any other choice would have represented a major challenge. South

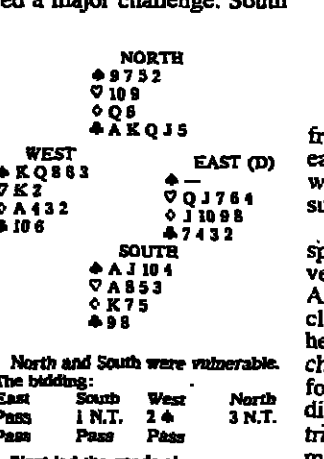
won in his hand with the ten and led a low diamond, winning with the queen when West of necessity played low.

Four club winners left this position:



When the last club was led from dummy, East and South each gave up a heart. West was now pressured in three suits.

If he had parted with a spade, South would have developed a trick in that suit. After a heart discard, the declarer would have taken the heart ace and led spades. He chose to throw the diamond four, and Wildavsky ducked a diamond to score his overtrick and win nearly all the match points.



North and South were vulnerable. The bidding: East South West North Pass 1 N.T. 2 ♠ 3 N.T. Pass Pass Pass

West led the spade ace.



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## Thinking Ahead / U.S. Needs a

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## Philips Set To Slash TV Unit's Staff

Fear of Asian Rivals Leads to a Shakeout

**EINDHOVEN, Netherlands** — Philips Electronics NV said Thursday that it would shake up its television operations in Western Europe by cutting the work force at three plants by half, eliminating 1,400 jobs.

The cuts are the result of a decision by the company in July to cut 6,000 jobs worldwide in its consumer-electronics division and take a charge of 760 million guilders (\$443.6 million) to pay for the job losses.

Philips has also said it would take a fourth-quarter pretax charge of 1 billion guilders to finance additional cost cuts.

"What we are doing is relocating part of our production to areas where demand is high and production would prove more cost-effective," such as Eastern Europe, said Marijke van Hooen, a company spokeswoman.

The world's third-largest electronics maker said it would close a plant in Monza, Italy, and concentrate its television development and assembly businesses in Belgium and France.

Philips, like other European electronics makers, is facing sluggish demand for its television sets and fierce competition from cheaper Asian producers.

In July, Nokia Oy, a Finnish telecommunications-equipment maker, pulled out of the television business when it completed the sale of its television-making business to a Hong Kong maker, Semi-Tech Global Co.

The job cuts announced Thursday, the first cuts at Philips' television unit, bring the company's total job losses in Western Europe to 3,900 since July. The company has said it is looking for a buyer for its television factory in Greenville, Tennessee, where it employs about 1,500 workers.

The move is the first announcement of big job losses since Cor Boonstra, president of Philips, joined the company in October and promised to cut costs.

The company's net profit in the third quarter dropped 77 percent, to 123 million guilders.

Philips did not break down the exact cost of the job losses.

The company spokeswoman, Ms. Van Hooen, said that the company's goal was to phase in the job losses by the end of 1997, adding that more cuts were in store.

Philips shares rose 1 guilder, to 68.6 guilders, in Amsterdam.

(Bloomberg, AFX)



Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces examining the grapes that went into this year's Chateau d'Yquem.

## LVMH Gulping Chateau d'Yquem

By Barry James  
International Herald Tribune

**PARIS** — The luxury-goods conglomerate LVMH said Thursday it was acquiring a controlling stake in Chateau d'Yquem, the producer of one of the world's finest and most expensive wines.

Analysts said LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA, which was buying a 55 percent stake in the property in southwestern France, was unlikely to make a large return on the wine alone if it continued the painstaking production methods that have made the Sauternes wine from Chateau d'Yquem a synonym for perfection.

But they speculated that the company may use the trade name to market other products.

"It's probably a value-creating business," Jacques-Franck Dossin of Goldman Sachs told Bloomberg BusinessWeek.

"It's simply a luxury-goods company buying a luxury wine, so it makes sense with the rest of the group."

Investors appeared to agree. LVMH's stock price rose 14 francs (\$2.70), or 1.1 percent, to 1,284 francs a share. That added more than 1 billion francs to LVMH's market capitalization. The rise in the share price also

suggested that LVMH expected the acquisition to generate at least 100 million francs of cash flow a year.

Analysts said the Yquem label would increase LVMH's snob appeal.

The price, which LVMH declined to disclose but which sources estimated at around 1 billion francs, appeared to be easily within the capabilities of LVMH, the world's largest luxury-goods company. In 1995, it had a net profit of more than 4 billion francs on sales of 30 billion francs.

LVMH has also recently moved to acquire a majority stake in DFS Group Ltd., an empire of duty-free shops, in the face of a rival bid from the investment house Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

DFS earlier said it would sell the controlling interest for \$2.47 billion, but the agreement has been opposed by one of the firm's partners. Control of the duty-free business would be a natural match for LVMH's products, which are prestigious brand names with high margins.

Analysts estimated that the winery, one of 240 in the Sauternes-Barsac area, had annual sales of about \$50 million.

The purchase was LVMH's first foray into the Bordeaux region, where Chateau d'Yquem, a sweet white Saut-

ernes, is produced on only 113 hectares (280 acres).

The family firm that has headed the winery for two centuries has never hesitated to scrap a vintage that did not come up to its standards. In a good year, the vineyard produces 100,000 bottles of wine, costing about 500 francs for a recent bottle and 1,000 francs for one 10 years old.

A bottle of 1865 Chateau d'Yquem was sold recently at an auction in London for \$5,280 (\$3,870).

Much of the winery's production is sold in the United States and Japan.

LVMH has wine and spirit holdings in the Champagne and Cognac regions of France and wineries in California, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.

The family-controlled firms of the Bordeaux wine region had long been expecting a takeover bid from major outside investors. The former owner of Chateau d'Yquem, Count Alexandre de Lur-Saluces, appeared to be particularly vulnerable to an outside acquisition after reports of dissent in the family.

LVMH said it had signed an agreement with several members of the families associated with the Chateau d'Yquem vineyard and that they,

See WINE, Page 16

## French Central Bank Stirs Devaluation Talk

Top Official Joins Giscard to Say A Lower Rate May Be Necessary

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**PARIS** — A Bank of France council member joined a public debate Thursday over whether French monetary policy was damaging the economy, saying a devaluation of the franc "may be necessary," because German officials had failed to understand the impact of their monetary and exchange-rate policy.

In an interview with the French daily Le Monde, Jean-Pierre Gerard said that a devaluation of the French currency against the Deutsche mark was undesirable. But he said: "I get the feeling the Germans aren't sufficiently aware of the problems their monetary policy can cause to the creation of the single European currency."

His criticism of German policy came days after similar if less biting comments from Paul Marchelli, who is considered an ally of Mr. Gerard in the Bank of France's nine-member policy council.

Their declarations also were similar to statements made recently by Valery Giscard d'Estaing, a former president of France, who revived a debate over France's decade-old policy of a strong and stable currency tied to the mark.

With the Bundesbank having frozen its interest rates, the Bank of France is effectively prevented from lowering its own rates, which it pegs above German rates to protect the franc.

Mr. Gerard called for talks with Germany over what he described as the currency-rate "imbalance."

"With two years to go to the single-currency deadline, it is surprising that there have not been talks on the over-valuation of European currencies versus the dollar," he said, referring to the European Union's plan to establish a common currency by Jan. 1, 1999.

"Without this, we will have serious problems bringing this monetary-union process to fruition."

The French central banker said a "correct" value of the franc would be 6 francs to the dollar.

Assuming a franc-mark parity of 3,353 francs and a dollar-franc rate of 6,250 francs, Mr. Gerard said, the proper value of the dollar would be 1.87 DM. That compared with levels of 1.533 DM and 1.595 francs Thursday.

Mr. Gerard also said Italy should be one of the founding members of the single currency, and he accused Germany of resisting a country that had helped establish the European Union.

"It would be a mistake to create the

euro without them," he said, referring to Italy and the name of the planned common European currency.

The lira rejoined Europe's exchange rate mechanism Sunday.

"At the time of Italy's re-entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, Germany gave too much the impression that it did not want Italy," he said.

Meanwhile, Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank, praised the Italian government for laying the groundwork for a stable lira. He said the lira was "cordially welcome" back in the European exchange-rate mechanism after a four-year absence.

The debate lifted the mark against the franc, as the German currency closed at 3,393 francs in Paris, up from 3,388 francs Wednesday.

In reaction to the two central bankers' comments, Finance Minister Jean Arthuis of France said: "The discussions of the monetary policy council must remain secret. These questions are essential, but council members are not justified in making known their feelings or their questioning" of the situation.

The scope for French interest-rate cuts is limited, as economists expect the economy will slow or even stagnate in the fourth quarter. They see the unemployment rate rising beyond the current record of 12.6 percent.

Despite calls for faster rate reductions, economists in France still predict that most members of the Bank of France monetary policy council will stick to the bank's traditionally cautious policy on rates.

(AFX, Bloomberg, Reuters, Bridge News)

### French Remarks Buoy Dollar

The dollar closed higher against the mark in Europe after the French central banker's remarks spurred concern that the single European currency would not be as strong or as stable as the mark, The Associated Press reported from London.

The dollar was quoted at 1.5330 DM, up from 1.5278 DM, and at 1.5955 French francs, up from 1.5739 francs.

The U.S. currency also climbed against the yen as investors concluded that Japanese growth was not yet strong enough to warrant an early increase in interest rates.

The dollar was quoted at 113.66 yen, up from 113.33 yen, and at 1.2955 Swiss francs, up from 1.2917. The pound was quoted at \$1.6807, up from \$1.6765 on Wednesday.

## Thinking Ahead / Commentary

### U.S. Needs a Plan to Prolong 'American Century'

By Reginald Dale  
International Herald Tribune

**WASHINGTON** — With 2000 fast approaching, people here are beginning to ask whether the "American century" can be prolonged into the next millennium. Fittingly, in the capital of the world's most optimistic nation, the general answer is, "Yes," but with at least one big proviso: The current dearth of strategic thinking about America's future leadership of the world economy must be rectified.

Americans face a conundrum. Their dependence on the world economy is growing while their influence over it is declining. That means they will increasingly be in need of friends.

But Washington also sees less need to grant other countries economic favors now that the Cold War has been won, and in the last two years, U.S. trade policy has deteriorated into litigiousness and mercantilism.

It was different when the Western-dominated postwar economic system was founded by a group of allied leaders 50 years ago. Then, a more altruistic United States could call all the shots, and, fortunately for the rest of the world, it did.

Since then, the U.S. share of the world economy has shrunk from more than one-half to about one-fifth. America is no longer the lone leader but

the first among equals. Today, most trade and economic negotiations will not succeed without agreement between the United States and the European Union; and before launching major initiatives, Washington usually seeks support from its partners in the Group of Seven leading industrial nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Two factors help Washington maintain considerable clout: America still has the world's biggest national market — many Asian countries have grown rich exporting to the United States — and it has been the most successful major industrial nation in adapting to the global economy.

But U.S. influence will continue its relative decline as the world's center of economic gravity shifts further toward developing countries — especially to rising economic powers such as China and India, whose cultures are very different from those of America's traditional allies.

In 20 years, according to W. Bowman Cutler, who was a senior economic adviser to President Bill Clinton until earlier this year, the combined economies of a new group of seven big countries — Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Korea and Thailand — will outweigh those of the current G-7.

In one of a series of studies of America's future role published by the Woodrow Wilson Center, Mr. Cutler calls on the United States to start designing a

new "global economic community" as ambitious as the structure built after World War II.

Among other things, he would bring China, India, Indonesia and Brazil into the G-7 in the next 10 years.

That may not be quite the best answer. Full G-7 membership should be offered only to genuine democracies, and Mr. Cutler seems to have forgotten Russia. But he is absolutely right that imaginative new ways must be found to promote cooperation rather than confrontation with the emerging powers.

In a similar vein, a study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies suggests that a long-term American objective should be to expand the number of industrialized democracies to the point where they constitute "a preponderance of world economic power, military capability and population."

America's long-term economic interests have not changed. They still require an open world economy run by commonly agreed rules backed by effective dispute-settlement procedures.

But if America wants the system to endure in the coming century, it will have to work harder than before.

That means it must pay more attention to its trading partners and stop undermining the system by unilateral actions taken for short-term political purposes, as it has so often in the past.

## Bribery Fight Gathers Steam

By Paul Lewis  
New York Times Service

**NEW YORK** — Almost 20 years after the United States became the only country to prohibit its corporations from bribing officials in other countries to win contracts, the rest of the world may finally be ready to act against bribes and corruption in business deals.

In recent months, international development funds, economic alliances and the International Chamber of Commerce have all taken steps to curb corruption.

The World Bank has begun spot audits of its development loan programs, which last year disbursed \$19 billion, and instituted rules that empower it to investigate corruption complaints and to blacklist companies and governments guilty of large-scale corruption.

The 28 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have committed themselves to ending the practice of allowing businesses to deduct foreign bribes, often reported as commissions or fees, from income taxes.

The International Monetary Fund has made "tackling corruption" an economic priority, authorizing its managing director, Michel Camdessus, to press for anti-corruption reforms in borrowing countries.

"The Ministry of Finance will no longer be able to tell the IMF, 'this is none of your business,'" Mr. Camdessus said.

These actions, after decades of broad international indifference to the issue, are in part a result of pressure from the United States, where corporations have complained that restrictions imposed on them in the U.S. law known as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 have cost them billions of dollars of business annually.

The U.S. companies understandably refuse to say which contracts they lost because they would not pay bribes, or what countries and governments may have been involved, but many are sure they have lost business because of the ban.

"We are highly vulnerable to bribery because of the size of the orders our members get," said Joel Johnson, vice president of the Aerospace Industries Association, a Washington-based organization representing manufacturers of civilian and military aircraft, radar and other airport equipment. "We've taken some considerable hits around the world."

International concern about corrupt practices is following a rising tide of scandal and growing evidence in many countries of public

See BRIBES, Page 16

## CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	USD	DM	FF	Yen	GBP	Sw	Sc	DK	Nor
Australia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Canada	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
France	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Germany	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Italy	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Japan	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Netherlands	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Spain	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Sweden	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Switzerland	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
UK	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Other Dollar Rates									
Argentina	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Brazil	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Canada	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Chile	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Colombia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Cuba	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Ecuador	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
El Salvador	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Guatemala	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Honduras	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
India	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Indonesia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Israel	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Italy	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Japan	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Korea	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Malaysia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Mexico	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Netherlands	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Norway	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Philippines	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Portugal	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Romania	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Russia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
South Africa	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
South Korea	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Spain	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Sweden	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Switzerland	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Taiwan	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Thailand	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
UK	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
USA	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
West Germany	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Yugoslavia	1.25	1.25	0.33	0.13	0.48	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38

## Samsung's Talks On Fokker Deal End in Failure

**AMSTERDAM** — Receivers of Fokker NV said Thursday they had not reached agreement with Samsung Co. for the takeover of the bankrupt Dutch aircraft maker's production facilities. Economics Minister Hans Wijers said Fokker's chance of survival was now small. Negotiations between the South Korean conglomerate and the Dutch government began Oct. 16. A Dutch source said Samsung had asked the government for another month to make a decision. The receivers discussed the request with Fokker's suppliers, but they were unwilling to wait, the source said. According to Fokker, Samsung was unwilling to help suppliers who had suffered financially from delays in the negotiations.

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## THE AMERICAS

# Accord on Digital TV Standard Puts the Squeeze on Filmmakers

By Mark Landler  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — This week's landmark agreement on a uniform standard for digital television left a conspicuous group unhappy: Hollywood directors and cinematographers.

Despite aggressive lobbying by directors such as Steven Spielberg, the filmmakers received no assurances that their movie images would not be cropped to fit the screens of the next generation of television sets.

A lawyer for the directors and cinematographers said Wednesday that they would continue to negotiate with the broadcast networks, but he acknowledged that the group's leverage was dwindling.

"The proverbial train is leaving the station, and we're not on it," said the lawyer, Henry Goldberg, who represents

the Coalition of Film Makers, a lobbying group that includes the Directors Guild of America and the American Society of Cinematographers.

On Tuesday, the computer, broadcasting and consumer electronics industries said they had broken a long stalemate in establishing technical standards for a new form of digital television, which will offer clearer images and more channels than today's television.

The Federal Communications Commission said it was likely to ratify the new standard by the end of the year.

Such action is expected to prompt computer and consumer electronics companies to begin building the first digital television sets and computers for delivery in the spring of 1998.

Last summer, when the communications commission seemed on the verge of approving a previous digital standard, the filmmakers joined the computer in-

dustry in opposing the proposal. The computer companies, led by Microsoft Corp., objected that the standard favored broadcasters and makers of television sets. The filmmakers

**If the 'Last Supper' had had to be cropped to fit on today's screens, six of the Apostles would have been edged out of the picture.**

raised an older complaint: that their films would be damaged artistically as they were squeezed from the big screen to the small screen.

"With digital television, we finally have the opportunity to show films at home the way they're shown in the

theater," said Larry Cherniack, a lobbyist for the filmmakers. "Let's take that opportunity."

Mr. Cherniack was urging the communications commission to mandate that the networks show wide-screen movies in their original proportions on digital television.

But that process, called letter-boxing, results in horizontal black bands appearing on the screen above and below the image.

The broadcast networks resist running movies this way because, they say, viewers dislike it. The major movie studios have generally gone along with the networks; the industry's lobbying group, the Motion Picture Association of America, did not join in the coalition's campaign.

Digital broadcasting means much more than snazzy pictures. It will break down the distinction between televi-

sions and computers, displaying pictures and sound equally well on both. Digital broadcasting will bring Internet services to television as well as to computers — and at rates 1,000 times as fast as is now common.

People involved in the talks said the filmmakers had made a passionate argument against cropping their pictures. As an example, they said that if the "Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci had been cropped to fit on today's screens, six of the 12 Apostles would have to be edged out of the picture.

Even on the wider screens of tomorrow's digital sets, they said, three of the apostles would have to disappear.

But once the computer industry prevailed in its effort to remove a set of technical specifications from the standard, the momentum to help the filmmakers vanished, the people involved in the talks said.

"The artists had a long-running emotional cause that happened to coincide with our issue," said Jim Burger, a Washington lawyer who represented Apple Computer Inc. "But their issue was tough to lose because it was in a gray area between technical standards and intellectual property."

Network executives said that if filmmakers felt so strongly about the issue, they should negotiate it in their own contracts with the studios.

"This is really a matter of copyright and contract," said Martin D. Franks, a senior vice president of the CBS network involved in the industry talks.

To a certain extent, digital technology will help the filmmakers simply because the screens will be wider on the new sets. As a result, the broadcasters will not have to contort the films as radically to make them fit on the new televisions.

## Baxter Delays Immuno Bid

Bloomberg Business News

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Baxter International Inc. said Thursday it would postpone its planned \$965 million offer for all of Immuno International AC because it had not yet received antitrust clearance for the transaction.

Baxter said it now planned to make its offer for all the bearer shares of the Swiss blood-products maker in January because it might not receive clearance from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission until the end of this year. It did not give a reason for the anticipated delay.

Baxter previously said it would make its tender offer this month. The purchase has been cleared by the European Commission, the ex-

ecutive arm of the European Union. Rolf Fuchs, a management board member of Immuno, said the delay did not mean the terms of the offer would have to be changed.

"As far as we know, everything's on track," Mr. Fuchs said. "The FTC seems to be a few days behind schedule, and we don't really want to launch the whole project just before Christmas." Representatives of Baxter could not be reached for elaboration on the company's statement.

Baxter plans to buy Immuno over three years by paying about \$715 million for its shares and assuming \$250 million in debt. The three-stage purchase would create one of the largest makers of blood treatments for infections and hemophilia.

## Officials Race to Keep Canadian Airline Aloft

By Anthony DePalma  
New York Times Service

TORONTO — Government, union and airline officials are scrambling to meet a series of deadlines that could keep Canadian Airlines International, the country's second-largest carrier, in the air and out of bankruptcy.

Canadian Air, which will carry a million passengers across the border with the United States this year, has accumulated huge debts and posted a \$64.3 million loss for the third quarter. Company officials have said they must have a restructuring plan in place by Saturday or creditors could start seizing assets.

A month ago the company said it only had enough cash on hand to cover obligations through the end of the year. On Nov. 15, every member of the board

designed to protect themselves against possible creditor lawsuits.

Kevin Benson, Canadian Air's chief executive, has said he will not put the company into receivership. Instead he has focused on a restructuring that includes a 10 percent salary cut from the company's 16,400 workers. He gave the company's six unions until midnight Thursday to accept the salary reduction. Late in the day, only four had agreed.

The two remaining unions are the Canadian Automobile Workers, which represents 3,500 ticket agents, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents 2,700 flight attendants.

Since Monday, company officials have been locked in negotiations with the unions and with representatives of the federal government and local governments in and around Vancouver, British

Columbia. Canadian Air is based in Calgary, Alberta, and uses Vancouver as a western hub and for flights to Asia.

On Tuesday, local officials in western Canada committed themselves to a plan to raise some \$26 million in aid or relief for Canadian Air that would lessen the need for a 10 percent salary cut from the unions. But the plan hinges on agreement from the national government and the unions.

David Gersovitz, Canadian correspondent for the Commercial Aviation Report, said he believed that Canadian Air was not running out of cash but was trying to force the unions to make concessions.

"I've not heard of the company being in arrears to a single major creditor," Mr. Gersovitz said. The company has not turned a profit

since being formed by the merger of several regional carriers in 1987. It has gone to the brink of bankruptcy several times in recent years.

In 1992, the national and provincial governments rescued the company with a \$90 million loan, and in 1994, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines unit paid \$187 million for a 25 percent voting stake in Canadian Air.

So far, American has not expressed any interest in expanding its stake.

"What went wrong with Canadian Airlines International is partly a function of the Canadian market, which is basically just an east-west market," said Julius Maldutis, an airline analyst at Salomon Brothers in New York.

"There are those who suggest that the domestic Canadian market is too small to have two huge competitive carriers."

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Herald Tribune

### BRIBES: U.S. Law Leads to a Broad Drive Against Corruption

Continued from Page 15

disgust with corrupt officials and institutions. From South Korea to India, from Italy and France to Venezuela and Brazil, scandals have forced politicians from office and sent executives to jail.

"The tide is definitely turning," said Peter Eigen, head of Transparency International, a group devoted to fighting business corruption, financed in part by U.S. corporations.

"We don't know whether corruption is getting worse, but we do know it is not being tolerated as it was." Mr. Eigen, who left the World Bank to found his organization because of the corruption he saw in developing countries, called the bank's stand "revolutionary," saying, "In the past, the bank shielded away from the corruption issue because it looked like interference in a country's domestic affairs."

No one knows how much corruption there is in the business world or to what extent it is increasing. Many specialists and analysts say it is probably growing with the world economy and with the leap in foreign direct investment in

emerging economies, to \$167 billion last year from \$44 billion in 1990.

Bribery and kickbacks have become common in former Communist countries as they embrace free enterprise. The spread of democracy can create new incentives for corruption as competing political parties seek campaign contributions. In some Third World countries, development projects can be more valuable for their opportunities for corruption than for their direct benefits.

"My own commercial experience, spanning 30 years and five continents, convinces me it is a far more serious and damaging problem than it was even 10 years ago," a British executive, George Moody-Stuart, wrote last year in his book, "Grand Corruption in Third World Development."

At the same time, corporations have a great incentive to go along with bribe solicitations: They can mean contracts worth tens or hundreds of millions of dollars for military supplies, aircraft, civil works and communications.

In a report in 1995, Mickey Kantor, then the U.S. trade representative, said U.S. companies had lost \$45 billion of

contracts the previous year because of the American law against bribery.

That report, like the U.S. companies' public complaints, did not identify any other corporations or countries allegedly involved. It is based on a classified study that used CIA resources.

The U.S. law resulted in part from a Senate investigation from 1975 to 1977 of Lockheed Corp., now Lockheed Martin Corp., which was found to have paid \$22 million in bribes to win aircraft orders. In 1995, the company pleaded guilty under the act to new charges, admitting that an executive had paid an Egyptian official to ensure the purchase of three of its C-130 cargo planes.

Other experts point to forces that are making the public less tolerant of corruption, ranging from its increased visibility to a better understanding of its cost. The end of the Cold War, for example, has freed democracies from having to tolerate graft-ridden regimes to keep them in the Western camp, argued Moses Naim, a former Venezuelan trade and industry minister who is now director of Latin American studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

### WINE: LVMH to Buy Chateau d'Yquem, Fine Sauternes Maker

Continued from Page 15

primarily represented by Eugene de Lur-Saluces, would cooperate in "ensuring the continued success of Yquem" by contributing the family's "know-how and traditions."

Like all good Sauternes wines, Chateau d'Yquem is expensive because of the labor required to produce it and the uncertainties of the weather. It requires a hot summer, rain in late September and a warm October to produce the *botrytis cinerea* fungus, known as the "noble rot," that gives Chateau d'Yquem a characteristic

spicy flavor. The grapes are selected individually and picked by hand.

Most Bordeaux vines yield at least half a bottle of wine a year. Yquem's vines yield only a glass in a good year, and in a bad year — like 1992 — nothing at all.

The wine is typically consumed in very small sips with foie gras.

The wine, however, has not had a good vintage since 1990, and prices have stagnated, Bloomberg reported. The harvest this year could change that, along with the lagging fortunes of 240 wine-makers in the Sauternes-Barsac region. Rain in late September and a warm October ensured that a higher proportion of the grapes had the *botrytis cinerea* fungus.

Separately, Count Xavier de Pontac, who runs the fam-

ily-owned vineyard Chateau de Myrat, told Bloomberg, "1996 will be a good year, that's for sure."

A court ruling last year raised questions about the extent to which LVMH might be able to control the Yquem brand name in France. Chateau d'Yquem lost an appeal alleging counterfeiting against a Paris-based company, Jacques Benedict, that was using the name Yquem to sell jewelry, cosmetics and laundry soap. The court said that because the products were not wine, Benedict was not at fault.

But in another case in 1993, a court of appeals in Paris said the designer house Yves Saint Laurent could not call a perfume Champagne, on the grounds that the name belonged to the producers and

dealers of wines from the Champagne region.

**Good Bordeaux Vintage**

Red wine producers just 50 kilometers from the Sauternes-Barsac region appear set for their third consecutive successful vintage, Bloomberg reported.

"A good vintage of Sauternes is long overdue after the magnificent 1988, 1989 and 1990 vintages," said Paul Bowker, a director and head of Christie's wine auction department in London. "Sauternes prices haven't been caught up in the price spiral in which we're seeing prices going up on average by 20, 30 and 40 percent a year, and sometimes as much as 100 percent," Mr. Bowker said. Wine experts, however, expect another good year by top red-wine producers.

### Markets Closed

U.S. markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Nov. 28, 1996

High Low Close Chge Opt

High Low Close Chge Opt

High Low Close Chge Opt

LONDON METALS (LME)

Copper	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Aluminum	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Zinc	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Lead	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Gold	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Silver	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Platinum	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Palladium	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Iron Ore	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Crude Oil	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Heating Oil	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00
Natural Gas	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00

EST. VOL: 51,807. OPEN: 92.50. HIGH: 92.50. LOW: 92.50. CLOSE: 92.50. CHG: 0.00. OPT: 0.00.

EST. VOL: 51,807. OPEN: 92.50. HIGH: 92.50. LOW: 92.50. CLOSE: 92.50. CHG: 0.00. OPT: 0.00.

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3-MONTH STERLING (LIPF)

Dec 96	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Jan 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Feb 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Mar 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Apr 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
May 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Jun 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Jul 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Aug 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Sep 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Oct 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
Nov 97	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50

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GASOIL (OPE)

Dec 96	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Jan 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Feb 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Mar 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Apr 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
May 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Jun 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Jul 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Aug 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Sep 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Oct 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00
Nov 97	212.25	212.00	212.00	212.00

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Stock Indexes

Dec 96	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Jan 97	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Feb 97	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Mar 97	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Apr 97	2,500.00	2,500.00		



## EUROPE

# Lufthansa Retreats From Profit Forecast And Sees a 10% Drop

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Lufthansa AG said Thursday its third-quarter pretax profit fell slightly on a loss at its cargo unit and rising fuel prices, and it acknowledged its full-year profit would fall at least 10 percent.

But Juergen Weber, its chairman, said the airline expected "clearly improved" earnings in 1997 to result from measures aimed at bolstering its competitive position.

Lufthansa said third-quarter pretax profit fell to 315 million Deutsche marks (\$207.8 million) from 317 million DM in the year-earlier period. It said pretax profit for the full year would "at best" be 10 percent lower than its 1995 pretax profit of 756 million, backing down from a forecast that it would match last year's result.

Mr. Weber said measures to ensure future profitability had included expansions of alliances with other carriers. The company also plans to launch a new low-cost airline in Berlin in 1998, he said.

Klaus Schilde, Lufthansa's chief financial officer, said: "What has burdened us above all is the cargo business. On top of that there is an increase in fuel prices."

In the first nine months, pretax profit fell 14 percent, to 434 million DM, a smaller decline than the 37 percent year-on-year decline Lufthansa posted in the first half. Rising fuel prices since June added 193 million DM to operating costs in the nine months, the company said.

Lufthansa's cargo business posted a loss of 66 million DM for the nine months, but the company said it expected the business to break even in the fourth quarter.

Lufthansa's passenger load factor in the first nine months fell one percentage point, to 70.4 percent, although its total number of passengers rose 1.4 percent.

Load factor, a crucial measure of performance for airlines, reflects the volume of passengers on individual flights and therefore how profitable the flights are.

Mr. Weber said Lufthansa was also hurt by fare wars waged by subsidized state airlines in the second quarter.

Lufthansa's ordinary shares rose 0.12 DM to close at 19.87.

"The news was very much in line with what people had expected," said Robert Willis, analyst at Schroders in London. "No one had taken their view that full-year profit would be flat on last year."

Lufthansa said its fourth-quarter earnings would depend on the resolution of a wage dispute with the white-collar union DAG, which is seeking a pay raise for pilots and other employees. The union, which staged a warning strike this month, is threatening further action if the issue is not resolved.

"Everything depends on that issue," said Mr. Weber. "Warning strikes or strikes could harm a good profit result." Still, he said there was a "very good" chance the airline would pay a dividend for 1996. (Bloomberg, APX)

## De Benedetti Admits Mistakes at Olivetti

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Carlo De Benedetti, the former chairman and largest shareholder of Olivetti SpA, said Thursday he took responsibility for both "immense successes and immense missed opportunities" at the office-products and computer maker but said his future was in the hands of its current management.

Mr. De Benedetti, speaking to a parliamentary committee on industrial activity, said "my role is that of shareholder, and I am no longer the controlling shareholder."

The financier, who still controls a 15 percent stake in Olivetti through Compagnie Industriale Riunita SpA, resigned in September as chairman of the company he took over in 1979 after it reported a greater-than-expected first-half loss of 440 billion lire (\$290.6 million).

He said it "would have been better to create a capital and management structure independent of me" when his predecessor at the company died in the 1980s.

Speaking to members of the Parliament's industrial committee, Mr. De Benedetti said Italy's national industrial policy had to focus on improving technology and innovation.

"Any action with which Europe commits itself to the spread of new technologies not only will be of advantage to the information technology industry but is a requirement for modernizing the productive and administrative system and re-establishing European competitiveness," he said. Mr. De Benedetti, in a half-hour speech recounting the history of the company, said one of the largest missed opportunities for the company was a decision not to acquire the Finsiel software division controlled by Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale, the government's industrial holding company.

The Italian government is now considering ways of selling all or part of its stake in Finsiel as part of an asset-sale program that will include the sale of Stet SpA, the telecommunications holding company.

Mr. De Benedetti's testimony was his first public appearance since his resignation and a management restructuring at Olivetti. Italy's industry minister Pierluigi Bersani, as well as Olivetti's chief executive, Roberto Colaninno, and its chairman, Antonio Tesone, also have spoken before the committee this week.

Mr. Bersani said Thursday he doubted that Olivetti would be able to overcome its financial problems even if it managed to sell its personal-computer unit.

On Wednesday, Mr. Colaninno warned that a formal parliamentary inquiry into Olivetti's financial troubles would cause the company to lose all its clients.

(Bloomberg, APX)

## Auto Sales And Exports Help French Economy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — France's gross domestic product expanded 0.9 percent in the third quarter as consumer spending and exports were strong, the national statistics institute said Thursday in a preliminary report.

The institute, INSEE, also said GDP fell 0.2 percent in the second quarter, revising its earlier estimate of a 0.4 percent contraction.

Third-quarter GDP growth last year was 1.4 percent.

Economists had expected GDP to grow between 0.8 percent and 1.3 percent in the latest quarter.

"The figures come as no great surprise, and while the headline figure was higher than what the market was expecting, there was a revision to the second-quarter figure," said Vincent Chaigneau, an economist at Societe Generale.

The rise in third-quarter growth was due in part to a calendar effect, with more working days than in the second quarter. That alone accounted for a 0.25 percent rise in GDP, INSEE said.

The government said the report confirmed its forecast for 1.3 percent growth for all of 1996. Meanwhile, economists said it confirmed their view the economy was picking up.

Household consumption rose 1.0 percent in the third quarter from the second quarter. Car sales rose 13.6 percent, helped by a government incentive that expired Sept. 30. The pick-up in consumption followed a 0.9 percent decline in the second quarter.

There was a rush to beat the expiry of car incentives, said Julian Jessop, an economist at Nikko Europe. "There were also impressive-looking rises in investment and exports, but both were flattered by weakness in previous quarters. The bounce in exports is more likely to be genuine."

Exports of goods and services rose 3.1 percent while imports were up 2.1 percent, the agency said.

A separate report released Thursday showed that new housing starts fell at an annual rate of 7.6 percent in October, compared with a drop of 8.2 percent in September. (Bloomberg, APX)

### Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40		
2825	4100	2325		
2750	4000	2250		
2675	3900	2175		
2600	3800	2100		
2525	3700	2025		
2450	3600	1950		
J 1996	J 1996	J 1996		
A S O N	A S O N	A S O N		
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	624.23	618.40	+0.94
Brussels	Stock Exchange	10,358.74	10,329.64	+0.28
Frankfurt	DAX	2,817.49	2,797.03	+0.73
Copenhagen	Stock Market	455.32	454.96	+0.08
Helsinki	HEX General	2,382.67	2,389.80	+0.54
Oslo	OBX	505.40	502.83	+0.51
London	FTSE 100	4,050.20	4,049.20	+0.02
Madrid	Stock Exchange	400.31	395.96	+1.10
Milan	MIBTEL	10,391.00	10,294.00	+0.94
Paris	CAC 40	2,290.31	2,270.77	+0.86
Stockholm	STX 16	2,405.29	2,356.43	+2.07
Vienna	ATX	1,104.70	1,105.65	-0.09
Zurich	SPI	2,481.05	2,460.78	+0.82

Source: *Telekurs*  
Indexes quoted in local currencies

### Very briefly:

- Fiat SpA is considering raising its 37.86 percent stake in a Turkish carmaker, Tofas Turk Otomobil Fabrikasi AS, as part of its plan to build a "world car" in Turkey.
- The Netherlands' gross domestic product rose 3 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, according to preliminary data released by the Central Bureau for Statistics.
- 3i Group PLC, Europe's largest venture-capital company, said the net value of its portfolio rose 6.5 percent in its first half, to 454 pence (\$7.59) a share, lifted by growth in Britain and Europe.
- Fortis, a Belgian-Dutch financial-services company, said nine-month net profit rose 18 percent, to 554 million European currency units (\$703.4 million).
- British Gas PLC's third-quarter net loss more than doubled to £364 million; it cited weaker gas prices in the commercial and industrial market and a charge for costly gas contracts.
- Royal Bank of Scotland's full-year pretax profit rose 15 percent, to £695 million, as growth in U.K. and U.S. banking operations offset lower revenue at its insurance unit.
- Eurotunnel SA's CFE-CGC union said a lengthy interruption of services would put 6,000 jobs at risk.
- Lukoil, Russia's oil giant, is completing a deal that would give it control over Izvestia, one of the largest national newspapers, according to officials close to the discussions.
- Channel 5 in Britain, which is due to broadcast in March, has signed a film deal with News Corp.'s Twentieth Century-Fox International unit that will allow it to show television premieres of popular films.
- Telefonica de Espana signed an agreement with a group of Spanish television broadcasters and the Mexican television network Televisa to set up a joint venture for digital television broadcasting. (Bloomberg, APX, Reuters, Bridge News)

## Deutsche Telekom Flirts With Kirch on Cable

AFP News

BONN — Ron Sommer, chairman of Deutsche Telekom AG, said Thursday the company was holding "very solid" negotiations with Kirch Group on using Telekom's cable network for digital television purposes.

"We are looking for a sensible business solution on how the proceeds could be shared," Mr. Sommer said.

Kirch Group launched the only

German digital television service, DFL, in July, and subscribers can receive it only by satellite.

Kirch planned to have 200,000 subscribers by the end of the year, but it currently only has around 20,000.

In addition to the negotiations being held with Kirch, Deutsche Telekom is holding talks with network and content providers, including the public-television channels

ZDF and ARD, Mr. Sommer said.

He warned that Telekom's cable network, which is connected to around 16.2 million households, was "not a motorway that can be driven down for free." Telekom took written orders totaling 950 million Deutsche marks (\$622.2 million) in 1995.

Mr. Sommer also said the company was not interested in becoming a content provider.

He also said it was too early to tell

how many retail investors had sold their Deutsche Telekom stock since the state-controlled company's shares went on the market Nov. 18.

"Naturally some shareholders have sold," he said. "But there should only have been a small percentage who would have wanted to get out quickly."

He said 300 million shares had changed hands since the company's stock listing.

## OPEC Freezes Output 6 More Months, Despite Iraqi Deal

Reuters

VIENNA — OPEC oil ministers agreed Thursday to a new six-month freeze of their oil output quotas, a measure they hope will keep petroleum prices high despite the fact that Iraq is set to resume exports.

State Minister Lutfu Esengul of Turkey said Iraqi oil would begin flowing through a trans-Turkey pipeline by Dec. 15 under a United Nations deal that allows Baghdad to sell \$2 billion of oil

over six months to buy food and medicine.

At the close of a meeting in Vienna, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries announced an agreement to retain a production ceiling of 25.03 million barrels a day until the end of June.

Saudi Arabia's agreement to retain a production limit of 8.0 million barrels a day was crucial because the country has additional capacity of 2.0 million barrels per day.

There was some concern at

the OPEC meeting that quota violations had already lifted actual OPEC output by almost 1 million barrels per day.

Venezuela has been accused of exceeding its limit by as much oil per day as Iraq is likely to sell. Caracas denies being over its quota.

Baghdad has not been allowed to sell oil since it invaded Kuwait in 1990. It agreed Monday to the UN plan that would let it sell \$2 billion worth to buy food and medicine.

OPEC is enjoying strong oil prices, partly because of delays in getting Iraq to comply with the UN's conditions.

Oil companies have also been scurrying to replenish depleted stocks of winter heating fuel while North America and Europe have had a cold autumn.

A barrel of oil is priced at between \$32.00 and \$33.00, compared with about \$18.00 when OPEC last met in June.

Iraq has said that only minor technicalities needed to be ironed out before it could export 700,000 to 800,000 barrels a day, using up in full its OPEC quota allocation.

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#### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The shareholders of Merrill Lynch Global Currency Bond Series (the "Fund") are informed of the following changes decided by the Board of Directors of the Fund:

- a. the denomination of the Merrill Lynch Global Currency Bond Series - U.S. Dollar Portfolio shall be as from 1st January, 1997: Merrill Lynch Global Currency Bond Series - Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio (hereafter referred to as the "Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio")
- b. the investment objective of the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio shall be to seek a high level of current income by investing primarily in transferable U.S. corporate debt securities rated in the three highest rating categories of either S&P or Moody's or which are deemed to be of comparable quality by the Investment Adviser ("High Rated Corporate Debt Securities"). As a secondary objective, the Portfolio will seek capital appreciation when consistent with its primary objective.
- c. the proposed investments of the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio include as follows: High Rated Corporate Debt Securities, including corporate bonds and transferable notes, convertible securities and preferred stocks.

The Portfolio may continue to hold transferable debt securities which were High Rated Corporate Debt Securities at the time of investment, but which were downgraded or declined in quality after purchase.

The Portfolio may also hold other transferable fixed income securities deemed by the Investment Adviser to be consistent with the investment objective of the Portfolio.

Under unusual market or economic conditions, for temporary defensive or other purposes, the Portfolio may invest up to 100% of its assets in U.S. Government and government agency securities, in accordance with the terms and conditions of investment restriction 1(c)(iii).

The Portfolio may at all times in respect of its ancillary liquid assets, hold certificates of deposits, banker's acceptance and other bank obligations, commercial paper, in each case with a remaining maturity of not in excess of 12 months or reduced to such duration by the use of appropriate financial instruments, and rated in the highest category by an established rating agency, or cash.

d. Class A Shares of the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio shall be deemed subject to a shareholder servicing fee of 0.25% p.a. of their average daily net assets in dollars as from 1st January, 1997, payable to the Distributor.

2. In addition, the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio will issue a new class of Shares, Class P Shares, which will be offered to Chilean Pension Plans and such other classes of investors as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. There is no distribution fee or sales charge paid by the investor for purchases of Class P Shares. The Investment Adviser may, however, pay distribution fees and other expenses related to the Class P Shares.

Except as described above and except for the change in the frequency of dividend declarations described below, all other rights, privileges, charges and fees of the Shares of the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio are the same as those that existed for the U.S. Dollar Portfolio.

3. From 1997 the dividend policy schedule is changed from annually to quarterly with respect to the Global Currency Portfolios, other than the U.S. Dollar Portfolio (to be, as described above, renamed Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio). The first such (interim) quarterly dividend will be declared by the Board of Directors in 1997 and published by notice to shareholders in the Luxembourgian Word and other leading newspapers. Effective January 1, 1997, the Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio intends to declare daily and distribute monthly dividends in the same manner as described in the current Prospectus under Dividend Policy for Adjustable Rate Securities Portfolio.

4. The German Paying Agent is, since 27th September, 1996 Merrill Lynch Capital Markets Bank Limited Zweigniederlassung Frankfurt am Main, in Mainzer Strasse 75, D-60331 Frankfurt am Main.

5. The prospectus dated December, 1996 as supplemented in December, 1996 will be available for inspection and a copy thereof may be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Fund, 69 route d'Esch, L-1470 Luxembourg or from the Distributor and Paying Agents.

6. Until December 31, 1996 shareholders are entitled to redeem their Shares of the Portfolio presently denominated "U.S. Dollar Portfolio" and to be renamed "Corporate Investment Grade Portfolio" without redemption charge or contingent deferred sales charge and/or to exchange or convert such Shares without exchange or conversion charge into those of the same Class A or B expressed in the same currency of Merrill Lynch Global Currency Bond Series or of Merrill Lynch Equity/Convertible Series, a Luxembourg UCITS with its registered office at 69 route d'Esch, L-1470 Luxembourg, on the basis of its revised prospectus to be dated December, 1996 as supplemented and amended on July 10, 1996 and in December, 1996 available for inspection and a copy of which may be obtained free of charge from its Transfer Agent First European Transfer Agent S.A., of 283 route d'Arion, L-1150 Luxembourg, to whom all conversion or exchange request should be sent on or before 30th December, 1996. German shareholders may also submit conversion or redemption requests to the German Paying Agent.

The Board of Directors

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

# Scandals at Home Snarl Japan at WTO

## Trade Minister's Role Is Scaled Down

TOKYO — Japan's hope to be a major player at a global trade forum in Singapore next month could be frustrated if, as appears possible, its trade chief pulls out of the meeting because of a domestic scandal.

A Trade Ministry spokesman said Thursday that Trade Minister Shinji Sato would be likely to make at most a brief appearance at a gathering of ministers from the World Trade Organization being held in Singapore Dec. 9 through 13 because of the pressures of parliamentary business.

Mr. Sato is expected to face harsh questioning from the opposition in Parliament about a scandal linking officials from his ministry to an oil dealer arrested this month for suspected tax evasion.

"The minister's schedule has not been decided, but if he goes, it might be only briefly, and he might not be able to go at all," the Trade Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Sato, who joined Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's cabinet this month, said Tuesday he had begun an investigation into possible corruption at the ministry.

The affair is the latest in a series of scandals involving Japanese bureaucrats that in the past week have toppled a deputy health minister and a provincial governor. The scandals have put a harsh spotlight on Japan's elite bureaucrats, once regarded as the architects of the nation's economic success.

Junichi Izu, a millionaire oil wholesaler who was arrested on charges of evading 310 million yen (\$2.7 million) in taxes, has boasted

of close ties to politicians and bureaucrats. He also donated millions of yen to high-ranking politicians across the political spectrum, including key members of Mr. Hashimoto's new cabinet. The investigation of Mr. Izu is focusing on the hefty commissions he received for oil transactions involving Mitsubishi Oil Co. and Mitsui Mining Co.

Japan's foreign minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, is also likely to cut his WTO appearance short because of parliamentary business, although no scandal has surfaced at his ministry, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Japanese trade officials now seem disappointed at but resigned to Tokyo's potentially low profile in Singapore.

"Of course the meeting is very important, but for politicians, Parliament has to take precedence," said one official.

Japan has often called the WTO its preferred forum for settling disputes with trade partners, including the United States, instead of dealing with differences in bilateral talks, often under the threat of trade sanctions.

WTO envoys in Geneva, meanwhile, have been battling to resolve strong differences over the text of a declaration to be issued by the ministers in Singapore. Key developing countries are opposed to any discussion, especially at the Singapore meeting, linking trade and investment to issues such as competition and labor standards. The United States, the European Union, Japan and Canada, meanwhile, are not yet in agreement on which of those issues should be on the agenda.

# Pretoria-Taipei Split Widens

TAIPEI — Taiwan said Thursday it would no longer encourage investment in South Africa, which plans to switch its diplomatic relationship to Beijing from Taipei next year.

The announcement threw doubt on plans by Tuxteco Distinct Corp. of Taiwan to build a \$3 billion petrochemical complex in South Africa.

South Africa, which had been the largest of a shrinking group of allies of Taiwan, announced its switch Wednesday, when President Nelson Mandela said it would sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan and establish full relations with Beijing.

Chiang Ping-kun, chairman of Taiwan's Council for Economic Planning and Development, said that "without government encouragement, it will be hard" for private investment from Taiwan to proceed in South Africa.

Tuxteco, one of Taiwan's larger companies, said earlier Thursday it would respect the government's wishes in deciding whether to continue its project. But the state utility Taiwan Power Co. said Pretoria's decision would not affect its coal and uranium purchases from South Africa, which is the largest of the 30 countries that continue to recognize Taiwan rather than the People's Republic of China. Nearly 300 Taiwanese businesses have operations in South Africa, with investments totaling more than \$1.5 billion.

Foreign Minister John Chang said Taipei would review its economic projects in South Africa over the next 12 months.

But Stan Shih, chairman of the Taiwan computer maker Acer Inc., said any impact from the move would not be "particularly big."

He said Taiwan continued to have investments and businesses in the United States and other countries with which it has no official diplomatic ties.

Chen Han-chung, an analyst with Yungli Securities, said of the South African move, "Many investors knew it was coming, and they felt it would not have a significant effect on the economy."

Taipei's stock market benchmark, the weighted index, fell 56.55 points, to 6,876.41.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the Communists won the Chinese civil war and their Nationalist opponents fled to Taiwan in 1949.

# South Africa Sees a Beijing Boom

BEIJING — The planned resumption of diplomatic relations between South Africa and China will increase bilateral trade, which is already expected to expand by as much as 20 percent this year, Pretoria's representative to Beijing said Thursday.

According to Chinese trade figures, two-way trade with South Africa was worth \$1.32 billion last year, with South Africa showing a small surplus in the trade balance. In 1990, trade between the two countries totaled just \$14 million.

"Obviously this will give a boost to trade," said Leslie Labuschagne, director of the South African Center in Beijing, which has acted as a diplomatic office between the two countries since 1992. "I'd expect trade to grow another 15 percent to 20 percent this year," he said.

In the past 18 months, Chinese companies have increased their investment in South Africa, and about 20 projects have been approved, Mr. Labuschagne said.

The largest of those was a \$50 million chrome smelter, he said, and most of the others were considerably smaller, valued at around \$5 million.

South Africa's largest investments in China are two brewery projects in Shenyang and Dalian totaling \$20 million, he said. But South African companies are interested in investing in China's mining industry, which is still closed to most foreign companies, he said.

Mr. Labuschagne said that, when goods shipped via Hong Kong are included, its trade flows with China have been larger than those with Taiwan for three years.

China's main exports to South Africa are light industrial goods such as textiles, while South Africa's exports include iron ore, gold, manganese, chemicals, leather and agricultural products.

# Malaysia Aims at a \$100 Billion Target

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia announced an ambitious 10-year industrial plan Thursday that called for about \$100 billion in investment to fuel its manufacturing sector.

Prime Minister Mahatir bin Mohamad said the plan sought "to transform Malaysia into the production hub for Asia-Pacific and beyond."

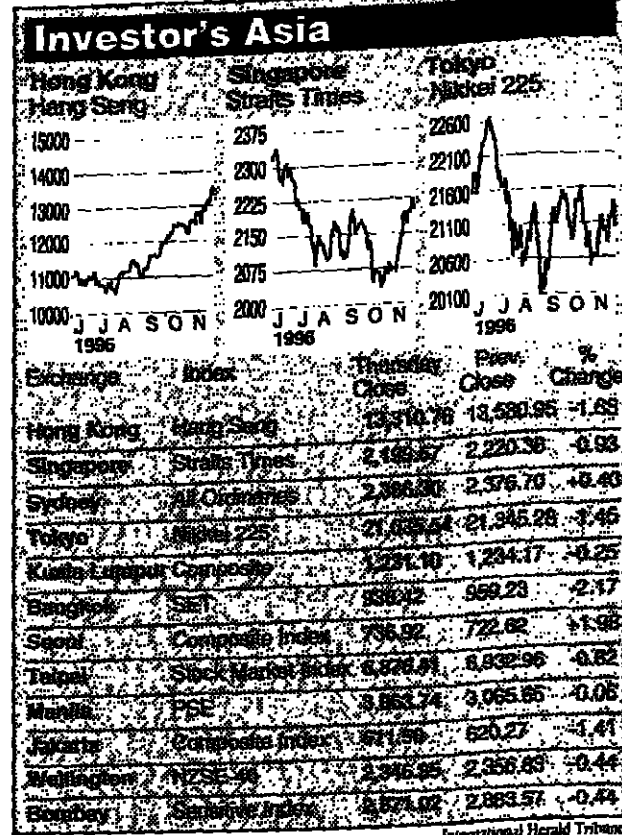
The country aims to achieve average annual growth rates of 10.7 percent in manufacturing output from now until the year 2000 and 8.3 percent in 2001-2005. Mr. Mahatir also said a shift toward high-tech industries would reduce the country's reliance on foreign workers in grappling with an acute labor shortage.

Malaysia's economy has been growing at more than 8 percent a year since 1987. It grew 9.5 percent last year, but the expansion has slowed slightly this year.

The central bank said Thursday that domestic product expanded at an annual rate of 8.0 percent in the third quarter, compared with 9.3 percent in the third quarter of last year and 8.4 percent in the second quarter of this year.

The slowdown largely reflected a drop in exports as world demand for electronic products and semiconductors fell, the central bank said.

Output in the clothing, textile, agriculture and mining industries also declined in the third quarter, but construction and services showed an increase in output.



## Very briefly:

- China will officially make the yuan convertible on the current account Sunday, in keeping with a pledge it made to the International Monetary Fund. Convertibility on the current account is trade-related and covers payment for goods and services as well as repatriation of profits. In practice, the yuan has been convertible on the current account for several months; analysts said full convertibility, or the ability to exchange investment funds between yuan and other currencies, was still a few years away.
- Qilu Petrochemical Corp., based in Zibo in China's Shandong province, plans to merge with Zibo Chemical Fiber General Plant and the Zibo Petrochemical Works. It would be China's biggest industrial merger on record.
- Japan's industrial output rose 3.5 percent in October from September to reach a four-year high. Sales of new cars and telecommunications equipment soared. But the Ministry of International Trade and Industry predicted output would fall 1.7 percent in November and 0.2 percent in December.
- The Bank of Thailand forecast zero growth in Thai exports for the full year after figures showed exports rose just 0.9 percent in the first nine months, to 1.03 trillion baht (\$40.45 billion). Thailand had a trade deficit in the first nine months of 334.20 billion baht, a 27 percent increase from a year earlier.
- Sony Corp., Sega Enterprises Ltd. and Koei Co. are taking 40 Hong Kong retailers and distributors to court over alleged software piracy. A lawyer representing the companies said 90 percent of the software sold in Hong Kong was counterfeit.
- Standard & Poor's Asia Ltd. affirmed its A-1 credit rating on Sumitomo Corp., which was hit this year by huge losses from allegedly unauthorized copper trading.
- First Pacific Co., the Hong Kong company controlled by Indonesia's PT Salim Group, bought 35 percent of PT Metro Selular Nusantara for \$147.7 million, gaining access to Indonesia's virtually untapped mobile-phone market.

## Seoul's Growth Slips to 6.4%

SEOUL — South Korea posted its weakest quarterly growth figures in three years Thursday, and economists said falling export prices and sluggish investment would keep the economy in low gear until next year.

The central bank said gross domestic product grew at a real, or inflation-adjusted, annual rate of 6.4 percent in the third quarter, compared with a 9.8 percent rise in the third quarter of last year. Third-quarter exports rose 9.4 percent, off sharply from 28.3 percent in the comparable period last year.

Korea's benchmark stock index, meanwhile, rose 1.98 percent, to 736.92 points, amid speculation that the government would ask the state-controlled Korea Pension Fund to buy 800 billion won (\$963 million) of stocks to try to lift prices. Korean stocks have been battered as slumping exports slashed corporate profits.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Nov. 28				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.			
Prices in local currencies.				Teluk				Teluk				Teluk				Teluk			
Amsterdam				Euronext				Euronext				Euronext				Euronext			
ABN-AMRO	110.30	107.30	110.30	109.30	ABN-AMRO	110.30	107.30	110.30	109.30	ABN-AMRO	110.30	107.30	110.30	109.30	ABN-AMRO	110.30	107.30	110.30	109.30
Alcatel	100.00	98.00	100.00	98.00	Alcatel	100.00	98.00	100.00	98.00	Alcatel	100.00	98.00	100.00	98.00	Alcatel	100.00	98.00	100.00	98.00
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## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE BUSY

New York is known as a summer playground, but it is during the winter holiday season that the city really sparkles.

Combining the traditions of many cultures, New York's melting pot comes to a boil between Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (held on Nov. 28 this year) and the ball that drops on Times Square on New Year's Eve. The city comes alive with lights, displays, concerts, sporting events, exhibits and, of course, shopping. Below are some of the "don't miss" highlights of the season. (All phone numbers are area code 212.)

• The Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center, possibly the largest in the world, will be lit on Dec. 3. (Who changes the 26,000 bulbs?) Leading the way to the ice rink and the tree that towers above it are angels and holly wreaths.

• The Hanukkah menorah, billed as "the world's

largest," is lit in front of the Plaza Hotel on Dec. 5 at 5:30 P.M.

• Angels, abound in the tree at the Metropolitan Museum's Neapolitan Baroque Crèche, while the Nativity unfolds below. Tel.: 535-7710. The American Museum of Natural History's origami tree is of more recent origin.

• The Cloisters, the Met's medieval collection, is an original abbey reconstructed brick by brick. Chants echo in the courtyard with Christmas displays inside. Tel.: 923-3700.

• Ice skating at the Wollman Rink in Central Park (tel.: 396-1010) and under the tree at Rockefeller Center (tel.: 332-6503).

• New York is the quintessential New Year's Eve city. Tops on the list is the ball drop at Times Square. Thanks to mounted police and better lighting, this event is surprisingly safe, if a bit rambunctious.



Macy's Thanksgiving Parade kicks off the festive season.

## MUSIC, DANCE AND BROADWAY SHOWS FOR EVERY TASTE

Radio City's "Christmas Spectacular," featuring a Nativity pageant and the high-kicking Rockettes (separately), is a Christmas tradition. Tel.: (1 212) 247-4777.

Another, newer tradition is Broadway's "A Christmas Carol." This year the show is starring Tony Randall, at the Paramount Theater in Madison Square Garden. Tel.: (1 212) 465-6744.

The most beloved spectacle of all is the New York City Ballet's performance of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker." Choreographer George Balanchine put his stamp on this classic, and the lavish production is the stuff dreams are made of. It is being performed through January 5. Tel.: (1 212) 546-2656.

There are literally dozens of performances of Handel's "Messiah" all over the city. But only one lets you join in the singing: the "Messiah 29th Annual Sing-In" at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center. Tel.: (1 212) 721-6500/333-5333.

The Metropolitan Opera features its first "Midsummer Night's Dream." Benjamin Britten's interpretation of this Shakespearean comedy will be performed six times in

December. The Met's "Hansel and Gretel," a holiday favorite, will be performed in late December and early January. Tel.: (1 212) 362-6000.

The Little Orchestra Society puts on another holiday opera, "Ariane et le Voyageur," on Dec. 7. Tel.: (1 212) 546-2656.

Other holiday concerts include the Vienna Boys' Choir at Carnegie Hall (Tel.: 1-212-247-7800) and the Boys' Choir of Harlem at Avery Fisher Hall (Tel.: 1-212-721-6500).

On Broadway, Bebe Neuwirth, Ann Reinking and James Norton have reimagined Bob Fosse's original production of "Chicago," with music by Kander and Ebb.

Frank Langella stars in a revival of Noel Coward's classic comedy "Present Laughter."

Sarah Jessica Parker stars in a revival, opening December 19, of the fanciful musical "Once Upon a Mattress." Based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," the original made a star of Carol Burnett.

Other new shows include "Juan Darien, A Carnival Mass" and "God Said Ha," a one-woman show starring Julia Sweeney of "Saturday Night Live."

## YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The following is a selective list of hotels that are offering special packages during this holiday season.

A word of warning: New York is popular at holiday-time. Book your hotel early — unless you want a room along the New Jersey Turnpike.

• Gramercy Park Hotel: Quiet luxury in a landmark neighborhood. It is the only hotel in New York City that includes a private park. Singles \$135, doubles

\$145, suites \$180. Tel.: (1 212) 475-4320.

• Manhattan East Suite Hotels: All suites, including kitchenettes. Holiday rates from \$134 (studio at Southgate Tower) to \$379 (two-bedroom suites). Tel.: (1 212) 465-3690.

• The Mark Hotel: The epitome of chic, popular with visiting Hollywood royalty. Deluxe room \$260 during holidays. Tel.: (1 212) 838-3110.

• The Pierre: An elegant jewel

on Central Park. Holiday packages \$315 and \$380. Tel.: (1 212) 759-4100.

• The Regency Hotel: Old World charm and grace. Winter Shopping Special \$205 plus Bloomingdale's certificates and other perks. Tel.: (1 212) 759-4100.

• The Ritz-Carlton: Conveniently located in Midtown Manhattan. December 19-30 special: \$199, Central Park view \$259. Tel.: (1 212) 757-1900.

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

The following are a few selections of current exhibitions:

• Corot: an enormous retrospective of the French pre-Impressionist painter, on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Tel.: (1 212) 535-7710.

• Jasper Johns: a full retrospective of perhaps the most influential contemporary American artist, at the Museum of Modern Art. Tel.: (1 212) 708-9480.

• American Impressionists: 52 works from Maurice Prendergast to William Merritt Chase, from John Singer Sargent to Mary Cassatt, among others, at the Adelson Galleries. Tel.: (1 212) 439-6800.

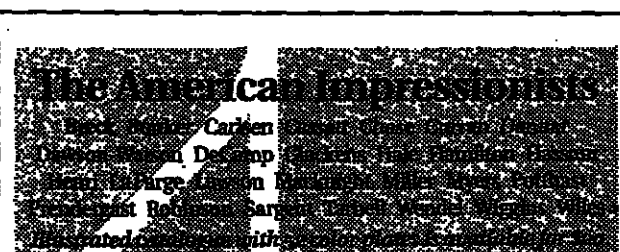
• William Trost Richards: Works of a leading 19th-century American marine and landscape painter, many from the artist's family collection that have never been shown publicly, at Beacon Hill Fine Art. Tel.: (1 212) 734-3636.

• American Art: From the Hudson River School through Abstract Expressionism, a mini-history including works by artists as far-ranging as Albert Bierstadt, John Singer Sargent, Robert Henri and the Ash Can School, Georgia O'Keeffe and Jackson Pollock, at the Gerald Peters Gallery. Tel.: (1 212) 628-9760.

• Lawrence Steigrad

Fine Arts: The Otto Naumann Galleries are offering Old Master paintings, all priced under

\$100,000, in a user-friendly environment for new collectors and museums. Tel.: (1 212) 734-4443.



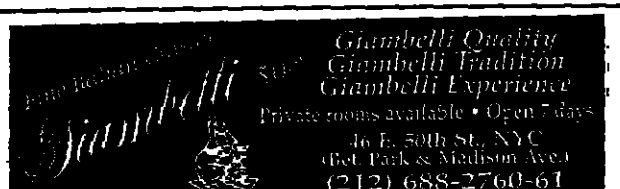
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## IN FOOD HEAVEN

New York offers as complete an array of restaurants as any city in the world. What follows is a random selection.

Candy Bar: With camp '50s decor, cotton-candy colors and waiters in black T-shirts and clear plastic aprons, this is the quintessential Chelsea "Boy's Town" watering hole and eatery. 131 Eighth Ave. (Chelsea). Tel.: (1 212) 229-9702.

Frankie & Johnnies: New York is famous for its classic steakhouses. Here there's fresh seafood in he-man portions, but it's the meat — veal, lamb, chicken and liver — that attracts businesspeople and theater crowds. 269 W. 45th St. (Times Square). Tel.: (1 212) 997-9494.

Giambelli: Hearty northern Italian cuisine served in an old-fashioned, classic New York restaurant. 46 E. 50th St. (Midtown). Tel.: (1 212) 688-2760.

Lucky Cheng's: The "waitresses" are all Asian drag queens, serving Asian/California cuisine. Very popular (Yoko Ono is a regular) and almost terminally trendy. (East Village) 24 First Ave. Tel.: (1 212) 473-0516.

Nirvana: Top-notch Indian food in an inspired setting high above Central Park. Prix fixe lunch and dinner menus are a bargain — especially with this view. 30 Central Park South (North Midtown). Tel.: (1 212) 486-5700.

San Domenico: Luciano Pavarotti's favorite restaurant serves contemporary Bolognese cuisine and is located near Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Reasonable prix fixe menus. 240 Central Park South (North Midtown). Tel.: (1 212) 265-5959.

The Water's Edge: One of the most romantic restaurant settings in New York is across the East River. The best way to enjoy the Manhattan skyline is from Queens — a fact taken full advantage of here. Featuring American cuisine. 44th Drive & East River (Long Island City). Tel.: (1 718) 482-0033.

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## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Kanu Has Surgery

**SOCCER** The Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu has successfully undergone surgery at a U.S. hospital to correct a heart defect that threatened his career, his Italian club, Inter Milan, said Thursday.

The club said that the 20-year-old Nigerian underwent a four-hour operation Monday at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, which "involved a plastic aortic valve," but gave no more details. (Reuters)

### Camby Strained His Back

**BASKETBALL** Toronto Raptors center Marcus Camby, carried off the court on a stretcher Tuesday, has a strained lower back that is expected to sideline him for a week. (AP)

### Redgrave Afloat Again

**ROWING** Steve Redgrave on Thursday reversed his decision to quit competitive rowing after winning his fourth Olympic gold medal in Atlanta. A British finance company will back Redgrave and his rowing partner, Matthew Pinsent, with £1 million (\$1.6 million) over the next four years. (Reuters)

### India Struggles

**CRICKET** South African fast bowlers Allan Donald and Brian McMillan each took two Indian wickets Thursday on an eventful second day in the second test at Eden Gardens, Calcutta.

With two other batsmen run out and Mohammad Azharuddin with retiring hurt, India stumbled to 152 runs for six wickets at the close in reply to South Africa's first innings of 428.

India began the day by seizing the touring team's last eight wickets for 89 after they resumed at 339 for two. Paceman Venkatesh Prasad finished with six wickets for 104 runs.

India's batsmen started well. Nayan Mongia and Rahul Dravid scored 68 for the first wicket but after Dravid was out for 31, India lost six wickets for 51.

• New Zealand reached 215 runs for eight wickets Thursday on the first day of the second test in Rawalpindi, thanks to an 81-run eighth-wicket stand between Stephen Fleming and skipper Lee Gernon on the first day of the second test. Pakistan spin bowler Mushtaq Ahmad and Mohammad Zahid on his debut shared the eight wickets that fell. (Reuters)



New Zealand's Bryan Young driving the ball against Pakistan.



Marcus Allen of Kansas City rushing past Van Malone, 39, and Ryan McNeil of the Detroit Lions on Thursday.

## Allen and Gannon Lead Chiefs Over Lions

**The Associated Press**  
**PONTIAC, Michigan** — Marcus Allen set an NFL rushing record, Rich Gannon ended the Kansas City quarterback controversy and the Chiefs may have made the so-called Wayne Watch academic in Detroit.

Allen rushed for two touchdowns, including the go-ahead score with 46 seconds remaining, to send the Chiefs to a 28-24 victory Thursday, ending the Lions' playoff hopes.

Detroit (5-8) needed another miracle finish to the season take the heat off embattled coach Wayne Fontes. Instead,

the Lions have lost six of their last seven after starting the season 4-2.

Allen has 112 rushing touchdowns, bettering the old mark of 110 he had shared with Walter Payton. Jerry Rice holds the NFL record for touchdowns scored.

"This couldn't have come on a more appropriate day," Allen said. "I'm just thankful for the guys who did their job."

Gannon, named the starter ahead of Steve Bono earlier in the week, jumped-started the offense for the Chiefs (9-4). Given the job because of his mobility, Gannon scrambled for 45 of Kansas

City's 243 rushing yards.

A 21-yard field goal by Jason Hanson gave Detroit a 24-21 lead with 8:41 left in the fourth quarter. Gannon then set the tone for the Chiefs' winning drive with a 16-yard scramble on the first play. Greg Hill, who had 103 yards on 17 carries, ran seven times for 29 yards during the Chiefs' 76-yard, 15-play, final drive.

After a 7-yard run by Hill gave Kansas City first-and-goal at the 2, Allen returned. Allen, who finished with 73 yards on 15 carries, was stopped a yard short on his first carry, then soared over the top for the winning touchdown.

## Weah Is Suspended For One European Match

**Reuters**  
**AC Milan** striker George Weah was banned Thursday for one match and could face further suspension for a violent incident at the end of a European Cup match in Oporto last week and broken.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, suspended the Liberian for Milan's final game in the Champions' League phase of the European Cup and said it would conduct a full investigation.

Weah is alleged to have head-butted Porto defender Jorge Costa at the end of a match and broken Costa's nose. Costa underwent surgery last Thursday and is expected to be out of action for at least three weeks.

The Porto defender could also face suspension if UEFA finds he triggered the incident with racial taunts.

Milan officials and Weah's wife,

Claire, claim the Liberian was showered with spit and racial taunts throughout the match and they highlighted his otherwise sparkling record.

The decision means that Weah will miss Milan's final Champions' League game against Norway's Rosenborg in

### SOCCER ROUNDUP

the San Siro stadium next Wednesday. Milan needs a point to clinch a place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup. If it loses, Rosenborg will qualify instead.

**FRANCE** Scotland's John Collins scored the goal Thursday that put Monaco at the top of the French first division with a 1-0 win at Montpellier.

Collins sidefooted in a low cross from Nigeria's Victor Ikpeba in the 51st minute against the run of play. It took

Monaco's tally to 35 goals in 20 matches, the highest total in the division.

Montpellier, in 17th place, dominated for most of the match against a Monaco team depleted by injuries and suspension.

But Monaco managed to survive and have scored again through Brazilian striker Anderson.

Bordeaux climbed to third with a 1-0 home victory over Metz.

An own goal in the 35th minute by defender David Terrier, under pressure from midfielder Michel Pavon, gave Bordeaux the points.

Veteran striker Jean-Pierre Papin might have made Bordeaux's victory more comfortable if he had netted two excellent chances that went just wide.

Both Metz and Monaco play in the UEFA Cup next Tuesday.

## French Hope to Rain On Edberg's Finale

By Ian Thomsen  
International Herald Tribune

**MALMO, Sweden** — Stefan Edberg has been saying good-bye for a year now, shaking hands at the door, the car running in the driveway waiting for him to leave. On Sunday he will be gone. It seems now that he has been waiting to take with him a silver trophy bigger than a wedding cake.

"I really don't feel that much pressure," Edberg, 30, said near the trophy on the eve of his career-ending eighth Davis Cup final, where Sweden will be host to France. For the French, it will be a dramatic change from their last final, in 1991, when they upset the United States on the noisy fuel of a full house in Lyon.

This time, the French might realize what the Americans went through. Almost everyone in Sweden, and elsewhere, would like to see Edberg go out a winner.

"We all respect Stefan very much — he was a role model for a lot of people," said the nonplaying captain of the French team, Yannick Noah, applying the past tense hopefully. "If he were organizing a party, we would go and enjoy it with him. But he decided to have a party here and we're going to try to spoil that party."

Sweden has beaten France in seven of their 10 meetings, most recently in 1994 at Cannes. In 83 Davis Cup finals, the home team has won 56 times.

This one will begin and end with Edberg, a bit of sentimental luck. As Sweden's No. 2, he was drawn in the opening match Friday afternoon against the French No. 1, Cedric Pioline. Edberg has won the last four of his five matches against Pioline over the years. Their match will be followed by Edberg's likely heir in the rankings, Thomas Enqvist, against Arnaud Boetsch of France.

On Saturday the French doubles team of Guillaume Raoux and Guy Forget — at 32, Forget is the only survivor from the 1991 titlist — will play Nicklas Kulti and Jonas Bjorkman.

If it comes down to the fifth and final match Sunday, it will be left to the 27-

year-old Boetsch to finish Edberg's career in the 5,600-seat Malmomassan, a converted automobile factory on Sweden's snowy, southernmost tip. Edberg had won all 10 of their meetings until this year, when Boetsch came back to knock him out of the Lipton in Florida.

Edberg concluded his ATP Tour career this month in Stockholm in a straight-sets loss to Kulti. Afterward, Edberg was presented with a rocking chair.

But in spite of good runs at the French and U.S. Opens, he did not win a single tournament this year.

"I really felt like Stockholm was the last tournament of my career," Edberg said. "The Davis Cup final is something else that has come along. It feels great to be part of the team. It takes the pressure off me. I know if I'm not able to win my matches we can still win."

The visitors were expecting a faster hard court, which might have further improved Sweden's chances. In practice, this week the portable "Plexipave" surface has been affording high bounces and a few bad ones. "You can play from anywhere in this court, the back or the front," Edberg said. "It suits anybody."

France is the fourth most successful nation in the Davis Cup: Sweden, the fifth. In 1926, France won a four-round tie in Sweden by 5-0. The following year, France began a dynasty that ended with its sixth Davis Cup trophy in 1932. Its seventh came in 1991.

The Swedes were latecomers, waiting until 1975 for the first of their five Davis Cups. Edberg has helped win the last four, including the breakthrough 4-1 victory over the United States in 1984.

"That was when interest in tennis really exploded in Sweden," Edberg said.

The only helpful statistic as far as Pioline and Boetsch are concerned is Edberg's poor Davis Cup finals record of 2-4 in "live" singles. Three of the losses were inflicted by Boris Becker, together, and you still do not have Becker. But then, Edberg isn't what he used to be either.

## Baseball Turns Attention To Traditional Labor Deals

**The Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK** — Ryne Sandberg and Denny Neagle stayed put but several other baseball players switched clubs.

Sandberg chose to stay with the Chicago Cubs, agreeing to a one-year deal worth \$3.5 million, guaranteed.

Neagle, the newest member of the Atlanta Braves' pitching staff, also got a new deal Wednesday, a \$17.5 million, four-year contract that replaced the two-year deal he signed with Pittsburgh before last season.

In a pair of trades designed to overhaul their bullpen, the New York Mets sent first baseman Rico Brogna to Philadelphia and pitcher Jerry DiPoto to Colorado. In return, New York got pitchers Toby Borland and Ricardo Jordan for Brogna and Armando Reynoso for DiPoto.

San Francisco sent pitchers Allen Watson and Fausto Macey to the California Angels for first baseman J.T. Snow. Kansas City acquired right-hander Jamie Brewington from San Francisco for a player to be named.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, a Twins reliever, Mike Trombley, got a \$775,000, two-year contract and a Dodgers' outfielder, Wayne Kirby, got a \$450,000, one-year deal.

Reliever Bryan Harvey agreed to a minor-league contract with the Braves, who agreed to give him a \$500,000, one-year deal if he makes the major-league roster next season.

Sandberg, the 37-year-old second baseman who became a free agent earlier this month, came out of retirement last season and hit .244 with 25 homers and 92 runs batted in. He committed just six errors and nearly won his 10th Gold Glove award.

"The fact that he had a year-and-a-half off and that he put up those numbers is quite remarkable," the Cubs' general manager, Ed Lynch, said.

Sandberg made \$2.8 million last season and is to get \$3.25 million in 1997 with the chance to earn \$250,000 more in performance bonuses; \$50,000 each for 100, 110, 120, 130 and 140 games played.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				CENTRAL DIVISION				WESTERN CONFERENCE				NBA STANDINGS			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	11	4	.733	Chicago	11	7	.611	Houston	13	1	.929	Portland	21	2	.913
Orlando	7	7	.500	Cleveland	9	9	.500	Utah	10	2	.833	Seattle	10	6	.625
New York	8	5	.615	Indiana	8	9	.471	Minnesota	5	8	.385	Portland	8	9	.471
Washington	7	6	.538	Charlotte	7	6	.538	Dallas	4	9	.308	L.A. Clippers	6	9	.400
Philadelphia	8	8	.500	Orlando	6	10	.375	San Antonio	2	12	.143	Golden State	5	10	.333
Boston	4	10	.286	Atlanta	3	8	.273	Vancouver	2	13	.133	Phoenix	1	13	.077
New Jersey	2	10	.200	Phoenix	1	13	.077	San Antonio	2	13	.133	Portland	1	13	.077

### HOCKEY

#### NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				CENTRAL DIVISION				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Philadelphia	12	7	1	St. Louis	12	7	1	Colorado	12	7	1
N.Y. Islanders	9	12	5	St. Louis	12	7	1	Colorado	12	7	1
Tampa Bay	9	12	5	St. Louis	12	7	1	Colorado	12	7	1

### FOOTBALL

#### FOOTBALL STANDINGS

AFC				NFC			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	12	7	1	San Francisco	12	7	1
San Francisco	12	7	1	San Francisco	12	7	1
San Francisco	12	7	1	San Francisco	12	7	1

### BASEBALL

#### BASEBALL STANDINGS

AL				NL			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Seattle	12	7	.632	San Francisco	12	7	.632
Seattle	12	7	.632	San Francisco	12	7	.632
Seattle	12	7	.632	San Francisco	12	7	.632

### SOCCER

#### SOCCER STANDINGS

Premier League				La Liga			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
Manchester United	12	7	1	Barcelona	12	7	1
Manchester United	12	7	1	Barcelona	12	7	1
Manchester United	12	7	1	Barcelona	12	7	1

### TRANSITIONS

#### TRANSITIONS

Baseball				Soccer			
Player	From	To	Details	Player	From	To	Details
Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M	Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M
Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M	Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M
Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M	Ryne Sandberg	Chicago Cubs	Atlanta Braves	1-year, \$3.5M



## SPORTS

Suns Finally Rise,  
Nets Are Fall Guys

**PHOENIX** — They couldn't go 0 for the season. But who would be their first victim?

"They have to beat somebody," Jayson Williams said. "They're not going to go 0-82." The New Jersey Nets forward was referring to the Phoenix Suns, who had begun the season 0-13.

Williams was right. The Suns ended their drought against the Nets, Wednesday. Wesley Person, one of many underachieving Suns, lit up the desert on Wednesday night with 22

## NBA ROUNDUP

points to lead Phoenix to a surprisingly easy 99-77 victory over struggling New Jersey.

The victory was Danny Ainge's first as head coach in his sixth attempt since taking over for Cotton Fitzsimmons. "To put this in perspective, this is a team we're supposed to beat on our home court," Ainge said. "I told the players that. We have a long way to go."

The Nets did all they could to help Ainge. New Jersey, the worst shooting team in the league (coming in at the game at 40 percent), shot 31.8 percent against Phoenix.

Yet Phoenix was four defeats shy of the National Basketball Association record for losses to open a season. The Suns, one of the worst rebounding teams in the league, outrebounded the Nets, the best in the league, by 47-44.

Michael Finley, Kevin Johnson and Person each scored eight points in the third quarter when the Suns, who hadn't led by double figures all season, outscored New Jersey 30-18 to take an 80-62 lead into the final period.

Joe Kleine, who had seven of his 11 points in the fourth quarter, squelched the Nets' final rally with a pair of jumpers for a 93-73 lead with 3:52 left.

The Nets' starting backcourt of Kerry Kittles and Robert Pack went 3 for 20 overall. Williams, who had 12 points and 13 rebounds, was 5 for 19. The 7-foot, 6-inch (2.3 meter) center Shawn Bradley had 7 points and 4 rebounds.

"It's been hard the last couple of days to look at the box scores," said Johnson, who had 17 points and eight assists in his third game back since an injury. "You look at the box scores and see a team 0-10, 0-12 and then 0-13. It's tough to get to that point. It got downright embarrassing."

Jazz 107, Nuggets 103 At Salt Lake City, the Jazz came back from a 34-point halftime deficit, the largest second-half comeback since that statistic started being kept in 1980.

"It was a crazy game—I don't think I've ever seen anything crazier," said the Jazz's guard, John Stockton.

The Nuggets led by 36 points late in the first half, but they were outscored 71-33 over the last two quarters as the Jazz racked up their eighth straight triumph.

Jeff Hornacek scored 29 points, including five in the final 1:16, and Karl Malone added 31 points and 17 rebounds.

"We looked like a deer in a headlight," Denver coach Dick Motta said.

Nets 88, Clippers 82 Miami won at Los Angeles to go 6-0 on its longest road trip of the season. Dan Majerle scored a season-high 26 points and Alonzo Mourning added 19 on 9-of-10 shooting. Miami used a 21-2 run to take a 33-8 lead late in the first period. Los Angeles never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Pistons 87, Grizzlies 78 Lindsey Hunter made four 3-pointers in the first five minutes and scored 24 points, and Grant Hill had 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the host Pistons.

Celtics 110, Lakers 94 Antoine Walker and Dino Radja scored 19 points each and the Celtics held Shaquille O'Neal to just one point in the fourth quarter as the home fans revived a chant from the Celtics' championship years: "Beat LA! Beat LA!"

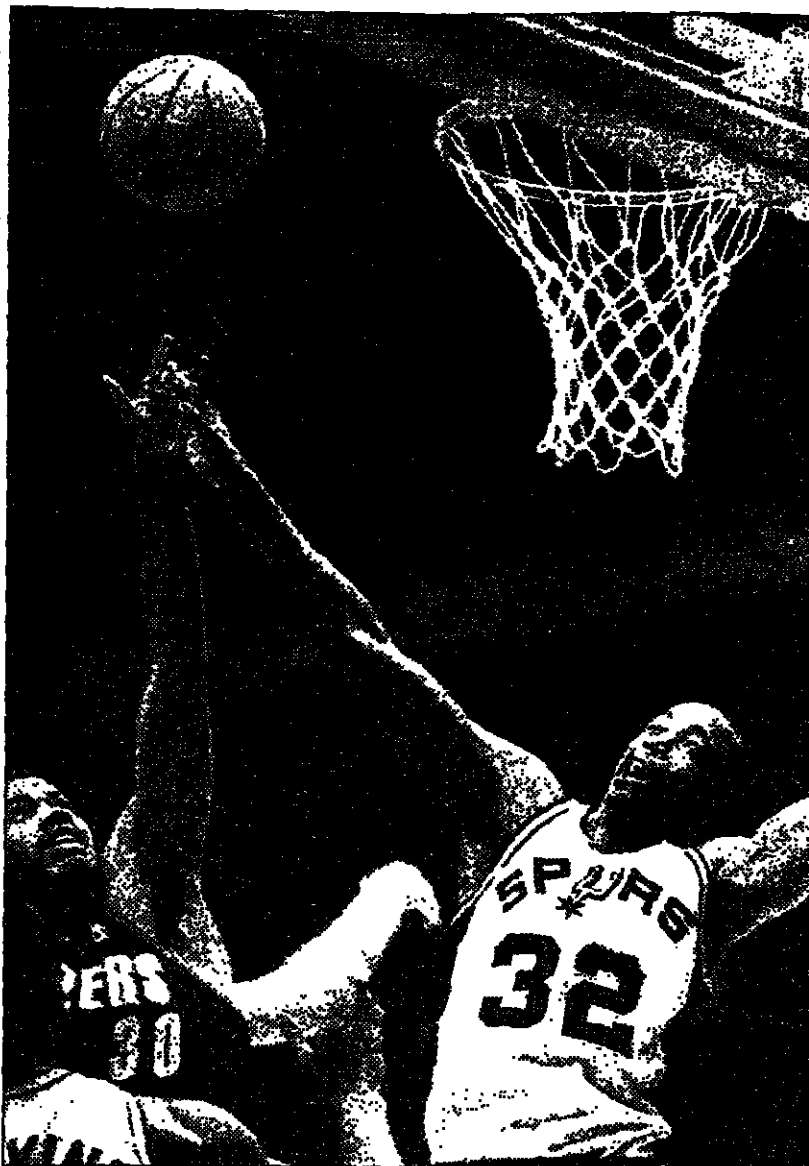
Raptors 82, Hornets 88 At Toronto, Popeye Jones grabbed a club-record 18 rebounds and made two key free throws with 23 seconds to play as the Raptors ended a six-game losing streak.

Magic 78, Hawks 76 Nick Anderson made three 3-pointers in the final 2:40 to help the host Magic improve to 7-3. Ronny Seikaly grabbed two of his 19 rebounds and went 3-for-4 on free throws in the final 17.9 seconds as the Magic held on.

SuperSonics 106, Timberwolves 98 At Minneapolis, Detlef Schrempf and Hersey Hawkins tied season-highs with 27 and 24 points, respectively, and Seattle withstood five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter by Shane Heal to beat the Wolves for the 22d consecutive time.

Trail Blazers 120, Spurs 109 Kenny Anderson scored 25 points, Arvydas Sabonis added 23, and Portland — the worst free-throw shooting team in the league last season — went 13-of-14 from the foul line in the final 85 seconds to beat the host Spurs.

Bucks 92, Cavaliers 75 At Milwaukee, Vin Baker and Glenn Robinson scored 22 points each and Milwaukee broke its 10-game losing streak to the Cavs. (NYT, AP)



The Blazers' Rasheed Wallace (30) shooting over Sean Elliot of the Spurs.

Messier Takes Out Anger  
On Champion Colorado

**The Associated Press**  
Mark Messier's bad mood is translating into good things for the New York Rangers.

Angry over his team's recent bad play, Messier has taken things into his own hands and the result has been two straight victories — including Wednesday night's 5-2 drubbing of the Colorado Avalanche.

"He's been in a bad mood, and it rubs off on us," the Rangers' defenseman, Ulf Samuelsson, said after Messier scored

## NHL ROUNDUP

twice against the defending Stanley Cup champion. "He has really taken charge and led the way for the rest of us."

The night before, Messier scored all three goals as the Rangers beat the Phoenix Coyotes, 3-1. Before winning the last two, the Rangers had gone 1-7-1 in their previous nine games.

Messier got the tying goal midway through the second period on Wednesday night, then added a shorthanded goal after stealing the puck from Sandis Ozolinsh for a 3-1 lead late in the period. The goals gave the Rangers' captain 14 for the season.

Pat Flatley also scored twice and Niklas Sundstrom had the Rangers' other goal. Brian Leetch assisted on Sundstrom's goal, extending his consecutive game-scoring streak to 13 games, longest in the NHL. Mike Ricci and Stephane Yelle scored for Colorado.

Canadians 2, Penguins 2 At Pittsburgh, Jaromir Jagr scored shorthanded on a breakaway midway through the third period to help the Penguins tie Montreal. Marc Bureau had put Montreal ahead, 2-1, with a power-play goal in the second period. Petr Nedved scored Pittsburgh's other goal while

Brian Savage scored for Montreal, both in the first period.

Canucks 6, Whalers 2 Mike Ridley and Alexander Mogilny scored two goals each and Corey Hirsch made 41 saves, leading Vancouver over host Hartford.

Islanders 4, Flyers 1 Marry McInnis scored twice and Tommy Salo stopped 29 shots as the Islanders beat the visiting Flyers, Philadelphia's second straight loss since the return of captain Eric Lindros.

Sonators 2, Capitals 1 Ron Tugnott made 31 saves as visiting Ottawa won its first road game against Washington and ended the Capitals' six-game unbeaten streak.

Red Wings 5, Maple Leafs 2 At Detroit, Brendan Shanahan scored his 300th goal while completing his eighth career hat trick, leading the Red Wings over Toronto.

Sharks 3, Lightning 0 Brian Holzinger broke a scoreless tie early in the third period as visiting Buffalo beat the Lightning.

Devils 3, Stars 2 John MacLean's goal with 1:56 to play gave visiting New Jersey a victory over Dallas.

Kings 5, Oilers 1 At Edmonton, Byron Dafoe made 34 saves and came within five seconds of his second career shutout as Los Angeles ended a three-game losing streak.

Sharks 2, Blackhawks 2 Tony Granato scored his 200th career goal and the host Sharks used a pair of power-play goals to break a three-game losing streak. Jeff Friesen and Darren Turcotte added goals for the Sharks.

Blues 3, Mighty Ducks 2 Robert Petrucci scored the go-ahead goal with 11:26 left in the third period and Geoff Courtnall had a goal and an assist as visiting St. Louis rallied to beat Anaheim.

## Local Rivals Fight to be No. 1 in America

By Anthony Cotton  
Washington Post Service

**W**HEN it comes to college football games between No. 1 and No. 2 ranked teams, such as the contest Saturday between Florida and Florida State, many factors are essential to victory: talent, strategy — pink walls.

That was the blend Hayden Fry, Iowa's coach, carried into a 1985 matchup against second-ranked Michigan. Before the game in Iowa City, Fry had the visiting locker room done in a lovely pastel in an effort to soothe the aggressiveness right out of the Wolverines.

Bo Schembechler, the Michigan coach, "saw that and the day before the game he sent his coaching staff into town and bought sheets of paper to cover the pink walls," Fry recalled. "He spent a lot of time doing that. When I saw him before the game, I told him that I knew we were going to win because any coach who spent so much time worrying about the walls in his locker room couldn't have his team prepared."

The Hawkeyes won 12-10 on a last-second field goal.

Although such a low score might give pause to fans of the high-scoring teams competing this year, both coaches would be happy with any kind of victory Saturday.

Steve Spurrier, the Florida coach, was on the losing end of the last 1 vs. 2 contest, a 62-24 shellacking by Nebraska in last January's Fiesta Bowl.

"No. 1 clobbered No. 2 last year. We

didn't get through that worth a dog," Spurrier said this week. "I don't think that'll happen this time. We are a lot better mentally. Hopefully we're a lot bit tougher team. Time will tell."

Bobby Bowden, the Florida State coach, has been in three previous games between top-ranked teams, losing to Miami in 1991 and Notre Dame in '93 before beating Nebraska in the 1994 Orange Bowl to win his first national title.

In '93, Notre Dame had a tremendous advantage playing at Notre Dame. Now we're playing this at Tallahassee. It helps," Bowden said.

Since 1943, there have been 30 matchups between Nos. 1 and 2. Saturday's will be the first regular season pairing since the second-ranked Fighting Irish took their 31-24 decision over the Seminoles in '93.

**E**ARLIER this season, the Gators, then ranked third, met No. 2 Tennessee in Knoxville before a crowd of more than 107,000, the biggest in college football history and won, 35-29.

Bowden said that that game, as well as the loss last season in the Fiesta Bowl, would help the Gators this time.

"The one thing Florida lacked was the atmosphere they are going to get on Saturday. Now they've been through that. Now they'll be ready."

Fry said the thing he regrets about recent top-two matchups is that, because so much is at stake — trips to bowl games with multimillion-dollar payoffs — neither squad is really allowed to just enjoy the experience.

Besides the locker room incident, when Michigan took the field before the '85 contest, Fry said he deliberately sent his punting unit to the Wolverines' end of the field to practice — but he used guards and tackles as snappers instead of the regular center.

"Snaps were falling three feet in front of the punter or going 10 feet over his head," Fry said. "Bo came up to me and said, 'You're not really going to use these guys are you?' I told him, 'Coach Schembechler, we don't plan on punting at all today.' That really got him going."

Though much has been made of Saturday's game because it is coming so late in the season, all a victory does is eliminate the loser from the national title.

Should Florida State win, the Seminoles would move up to No. 1 but still have to win the Sugar Bowl, probably against the current No. 4, Nebraska, to win the national title.

A Florida victory would be only a prelude to two other tough games — against Alabama the following Saturday in the Southeastern Conference championship game and in New Orleans in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2.

Nebraska faces No. 5 Colorado on Friday, but coach Tom Osborne admitted this week that he will be watching the proceedings in Tallahassee on Saturday.

"You're always thinking about playing somebody as good as Florida and Florida State — it's just natural," Osborne said. "I'll watch that game with interest because those teams represent the top level of college football."



Libor Zabransky of the Blues, left, battling Teemu Selanne of the Ducks.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"If you're just going to talk, can we borrow the cards?"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four words and you'll be a word master.

TOAPI

SEGUS

LAMTEL

ENTHIZ

Now arrange the correct letters in the correct order to form the words.

Answer: TOPI, SEGUS, LAMTEL, ENTHIZ

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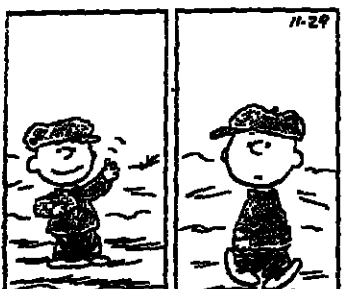
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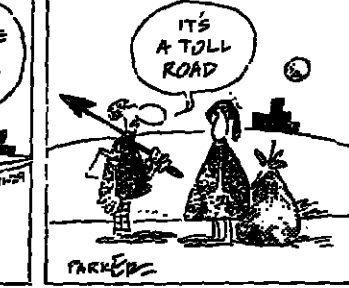
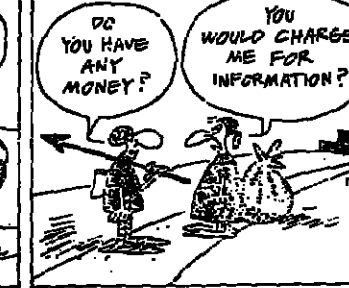
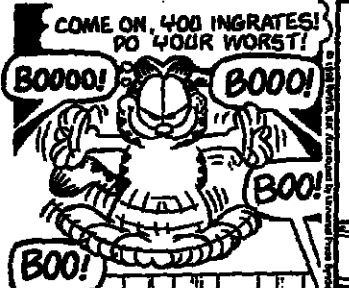
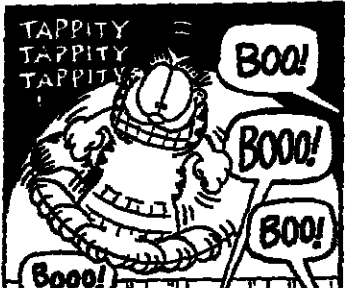
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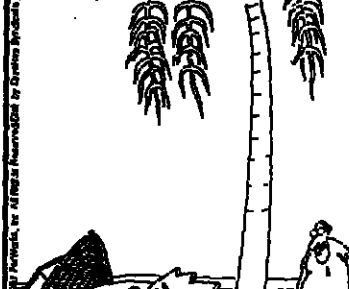
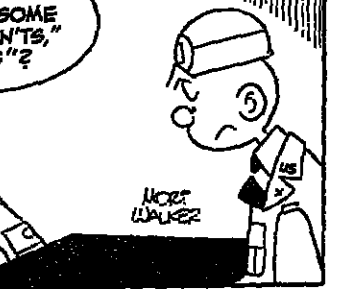
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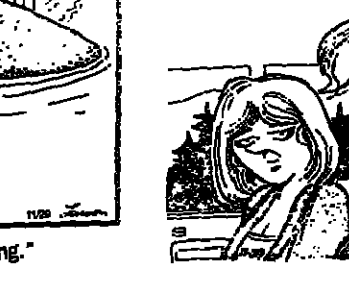
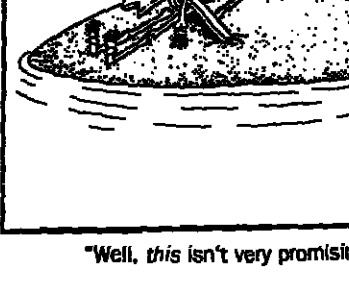
## GARFIELD



## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



"Well, this isn't very promising."

## DOONESBURY





## OBSERVER

## Who's Hot? Not Me

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — At the grocery checkout a TV Guide promises a report on "Who's Hot — Who's Happening — Who's Sexy." Self-pity whispers, "Buy it and feel depressed about not being included in the roundup. Common sense persuades me to keep my money."

Moments like this disclose nasty envy still embedded in my soul.

Yet what is there to envy? Having all America think you are either hot, happening or sexy would make life intolerable. Imagine: endless requests for photographs, the importunings of movie agents, distraught women hurling themselves against your door, sneering jokes from friends, relatives, the mailman.

Down that road lies madness. Had fate actually made me hot, happening or sexy, having the news publicized would be so hateful that TV Guide would find itself in court answering invasion-of-privacy charges.

Yet it is faintly galling to be left off the list. A slow check-out cashier allows time to scan TV Guide's gallery cost-free. All are fine-looking men and women, apparently in the entertainment business.

"Hot," "happening" and "sexy"? These turn out to be mere show-biz talk, meaning that these particular performers are having successes this winter.

Envy gives way to sadness. Sadness for all beautiful young actors who each season receive these embarrassing media accolades. Before they have time to grow their first wrinkle, most will be has-beens, forgotten by the hype-

meisters. In this gallery of burgeoning successes I recognize not a single face. This happens often lately when I confront collections of famous faces. The arrival of the latest Vanity Fair or People magazine becomes an increasingly pointless event with their pages and pages celebrating people whose names mean nothing to me.

How bleak, you will say, to be so out of touch with the day's rich and famous. No, it is not bleak. It is essential to survival. The trick to happy living these days is to quit trying to keep up. There is simply too much to keep up with.

People who try to keep up with it all end up prostrate in dark closets weeping because they still haven't got around to installing Windows 95 or can't distinguish Sharon Stone from Julia Whalzer-name, Michael Ovitz from Michael Eisner and Lexus from Infiniti.

It is a glorious time to be alive, white, male, well paid and American, but the glories come at you so relentlessly, so multitudinously, so insistently that they will finish you off unless you ration the intake.

Nikita Khrushchev, poor doll, once said the Soviet Union would bury us. He didn't know that, left alone, we would bury ourselves under our own riches.

Here's something important to remember when you stop keeping up: Don't care that you are not keeping up.

I rejoice at having licked the lethal American compulsion to keep up, just as, years ago, I rejoiced after licking the deadly cigarette habit. Both victories put fresh spring in my step and gave me hope of living far beyond the age of 115.

New York Times Service

## Brian Eno: Where Has the Conversation Gone?

By Mike Zwerin  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — During the last few years, Brian Peter George St. John le Baptiste de la Salle Eno has been somewhat dismayed to find himself acting more and more like the "nonmusician" he once joked that he was.

Eno, who grew up in Ipswich, England, had served as adviser and mentor to David Bowie, John Cale, Talking Heads, Devo, U2 ("The Joshua Tree") and others. He once ironically described himself as a "systems operator." "Eminence grise" will also do.

Since 1993, he has been working with a charity called War Child, which ships food, medical supplies, building materials and so on to Bosnia. He found this more gratifying and positive than adding to the music piling up out there, which was not amounting to much as far as he could hear. Music didn't seem to be making much difference one way or another any more.

One of the most influential producers ever, author of the theoretical handbook "Music for Non-Musicians," and composer of "Music for Airports," Eno is now basically asking the question, "Is it still hip to be hip?"

While word has it that youth in London is on the most creative binge since its "swinging" days, Eno poses difficult questions rather than joining the party. Along with Bryan Ferry, Eno co-founded the rock band Roxy Music; he was the group's synthesist. He was influenced by the composer John Cage, and Cage was also an influence on Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Jon Hassell, Terry Riley and others involved on the frontiers of avant-garde rock, jazz and classical music. Eno started thinking in "reductive terms" and by now he seems to have reduced music just about out of the picture.

At his age (48), he considers himself a product of the counterculture. But "the counterculture has become a wholly owned subsidiary of the establishment. The counterculture is Calvin Klein. The young, by and large, seem to have been suckered. Perhaps we need to point this out. So I talk more than I make music. All I seem to do these days is talk — think and talk."

"Music is no longer the center of the cultural conversation. I can remember when everybody talked about which records were relevant, and everybody's metaphors and reference points were very clear and common and they all went through a relatively small cosmology of musicians and pieces of music."



"I talk more than I make music. All I seem to do these days is think and talk."

Music mediated culture. Music is still nice and young people like it, but it's a kind of add-on. Not essential. So I wondered — where is the cultural conversation now?

It occurred to him that perhaps the cultural conversation is where the real conversation is. On the Internet.

He considers the Internet a "mess of boring rubbish, but the reason people are so excited about it is because it offers the possibility of this huge global conversation. Everybody is talking to everybody. It's nice not having to go through the top of the pyramid; we can talk horizontally across."

The fact that something is being said is thus

more interesting than what is being said: "We have evolved these incredibly complex interwoven communications networks and what are we doing with them? Not much. Talk is cheap. Keep it simple. Keep it fast. The Net is run for what we call trainspotters, and what you call needs. Still, conversation itself appears to be thriving. Right now the conversation itself may in fact be the culture."

Eno is like a self-charging battery, the more he says the more there is to say. It's hard keeping up. For example, did he just say that the conversation is the culture. And does that mean that the message is in fact the media? Wait a minute!

"No matter what you do today," he continued, "there are all these ponytailed admen at the finish line giving you this huge bear hug. And it occurred to me that a noble aspiration for a young artist today would be to try and make art that is too ugly to be used for advertising. To make the unco-optable thing."

"A great deal of people's behavior is mediated culturally rather than rationally. People make decisions about what they think they ought to do on the basis not of rational argument but on what works for them metaphorically; what has been given dignity in their culture, and how they respond to that."

"For instance, I can imagine very easily that within the next two or three years buying American products will become a totally uncool thing to do. Don't touch them with a barge pole. Just as it's been increasingly fashionable to wear Levi's. In the flip-flop way that these things go these days, the reverse can always happen."

It is, he says, already happening in Britain. "European films are becoming more popular. While McDonald's are everywhere, fashionable kids in London are vegetarians. I do not mean to dismiss fashion," he said, grimacing after a sip of weak French tea. "Fashion is deep. Fashion is a bundle of attitudes that one embraces and identifies with as a bundle. It does not have to be rationally argued at every level."

"Our generation has been told so many times that we mustn't criticize whatever's going on now, that it's all part of the great evolving fabric of life, and that, naturally, if it's new, then we won't get it, etcetera, etcetera. But I think that our reluctance to be critical was based on the idea that there was a continuing, evolving counterculture, and that at some point it would turn its guns on us oldies."

"Whereas what we now have is a surrogate counterculture; people express their allegiance to the system by their choice of brand allegiance. This is a neatly reflexive system for those who own the game: letting us argue about the curtains while they design the building and choose its location."

"But perhaps I'm missing the whole point completely, which is the panacea of the no-longer-adolescent. Maybe the whole topic has changed, so I'm ludicrously trapped in the mindset which imagines that any of this stuff — the politics of cultural dominance, of corporate power, of global capital-shifting — is in the least important."

## PEOPLE

THE author Salman Rushdie was edged out by a literary newcomer for the Bad Sex in Fiction Award 1996. Rushdie was shortlisted by The Literary Review magazine for the sex scenes in "The Moor's Last Sigh," which feature such choice phrases as "Uma, my Uma, murmured in my ear near the Everest of our ecstasy, on the South Col of desire." But he was beaten by a first-time novelist, David Huggins, whose novel "The Big Kiss" clinched the prize thanks to sex scenes that were judged "irrelevant to the plot." Amberley Waugh, the editor of The Literary Review, said at the prize-giving ceremony, "Huggins' book is quite funny and quite disgusting. The prize is meant to serve as a gentle discouragement for first novelists to include irrelevant sex. First novelists do tend to ham it up the most." Huggins put a brave face on being chosen for the title. "I am delighted and honored to receive this award," he said. "This is one of the happiest days of my life."

Kirstie Alley, former "Cheers" star, and the actor Parker Stevenson are

headed for divorce court after 13 years of marriage. The syndicated columnist Liz Smith quoted a statement issued by the couple: "We intend to remain the best of friends and devoted parents to our two children."

Rikki Lake, Jenny Jones and the rest of the daytime talk show world may face some royal competition. The Duchess of York is fielding offers to be host of a daytime talk show, said her spokesman, Howard Rubenstein. The duchess, known as Fergie, is also considering other opportunities in television and as a corporate spokeswoman, he said. Fergie, who was divorced from Prince Andrew in May, toured the United States this month to promote her autobiography.

Brigitte Bardot has fallen from favor in the French city of Quimper. Four busts of Marianne, a symbol of the French Republic, have lost their place in City Hall because they were modeled on the actress, who has ties to the far-right National Front. "Brigitte Bardot once

incarnated the liberated woman — care-free, young and beautiful," said Jean-Jacques Urvoas, director of Quimper's mayor's office. "Today, she has come to symbolize rejection, exclusion." The model for the busts changes every 10 years. The four busts in Bardot's image were replaced by others inspired by the actress Catherine Deneuve.

Motley Crue's drummer, Tommy Lee, pleaded not guilty to charges that he threw a tabloid TV cameraman to the ground, breaking his pelvis. The misdemeanor battery charge stems from a Sept. 29 confrontation outside a Beverly Hills, California, nightclub. Henry Trappier, who works for Paparazzi TV, claims his pelvis was broken as he was trying to film Lee and Lee's wife, Pamela Anderson Lee. Last week, Anderson Lee filed for divorce after 21 months of marriage.

Plácido Domingo popped up at the Croatian Embassy in Washington, not to perform, but to dine. Domingo, the new

artistic director of the Washington Opera, attended the festivities sponsored by Ambassador Miroslav Zuzul and his wife, Tatjana, following a performance of the company's "Il Guarany." The reception, honoring the Croatian opera singer Boris Martinovic, the "Il Guarany" cast and Domingo, featured a lavish spread of Croatian food and wine.

Hearthrob Chris O'Donnell, who stars in the forthcoming "Batman & Robin," announced his engagement to Caroline Fentress, a kindergarten teacher.

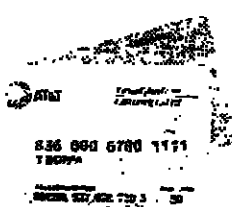
The auto-racer Mario Andretti is turning his attention to the slow art of making wine. The Indy 500 winner plans to open a vineyard and winery next year in the Napa Valley of California. Andretti, who is retired from racing, recalled that during his childhood in Italy, he got a small glass of wine for lunch in the hospital after his tonsils were removed at age 8. "Wine was very much an everyday thing," he said.



THE MEXICAN CONNECTION — Catherine Deneuve arriving at a Mexico City movie house for the opening of a French film festival.

I love 0-800-99-0011 in the springtime.

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Germany	0130-0010		
Greece	07-503-1311	AFRICA	
Ireland	1-800-550-080	Rhodes	8191
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